

Sales Dept: 01-499 8611,  
Administration: 01-568 4411,  
Fax: 061-832 7831.



## HOME NEWS

## Council workers to lead new onslaught on 10% pay guideline

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The Government is facing a renewed onslaught on its income policy from unions in the public sector, and the TUC is to take up the striking firemen's plea for help.

That twin threat to wage after local authority union leaders had failed to agree an adds 10.7 per cent to the pay bill. They are asking the employers, the same as those caught up in the firemen's strike, for talks on an improved deal.

Miners' leaders are to meet the National Coal Board this morning for the first round of talks on their claim for rises from November 1, or about 90 per cent to give face workers £135 a week, having rejected the NCB's offer saying that they cannot have a rise until next March under the TUC's 12-month rule.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation yesterday put in for rises for 72,000 heavy steel workers in the state steel-making industry, which is suffering huge financial losses. There were also talks on the union's demands for more than 20,000 white-collar grades.

As the tempo of pay bargaining in the public sector quickens, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the Fire Brigades Union request for assistance had been received and would go through the procedures usually followed in such cases.

That is likely to be considered by the TUC's "inner cabinet", its finance and general purposes committee, which may be called into special session to progress the firemen's appeal. Mr Alan Fisher, a member of the committee and general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), said last night that the TUC might seek

a meeting with the Prime Minister to intercede in the three-week-old strike.

NuPe has given the firemen's union an outright gift of £10,000, and its branches have voted five too no to accept the local authorities offer, which averages 10.1 per cent on basic rates. A joint meeting of the three unions representing town hall manual workers, NuPe, the General and Municipal Workers' Union and the Transport and General Workers' Union, ended in deadlock yesterday, and further talks with the employers are being sought.

Mr Fisher denied last night that other unions would, in the words of the Prime Minister when he met the TUC two days ago, "want to build on" any settlement of the firemen's claim that goes beyond the 10 per cent guideline.

"We are seeking to bargain on the merits of our claim, and not be settled simply on the arbitrary criteria drawn up by the Government and not accepted in this round by the TUC," he added.

But the delaying tactics in the large pay bargain involving a million manual workers in the public sector will inevitably make it more difficult to settle the firemen's dispute within the terms of present guidelines. Mr Fisher cannot point to a single comparable group of public service workers who have accepted 10 per cent, and the propaganda effect of an acceptable settlement in that key area has been at least temporarily blunted.

The TUC, when it meets to consider the firemen's plea for help, will have before it several options. Other public service unions will suggest that a top-level delegation of TUC leaders should go to Downing Street to plead the firemen's case. Financial aid will also be proposed, and practical assistance in running the strike.

## Mr Callaghan urges fire officers to use influence

Continued from page 1

Mr Callaghan also wanted it understood that, although he was making his first personal intervention as Prime Minister in industrial disputes by meeting firemen and five officers on successive days, he would not have the Government prematurely sucked into direct pay negotiations.

The next step was for the fire officers to submit their ideas in writing to the Home Office. It is known that they believe a genuine productivity deal can be worked out involving immediate reductions in firemen's hours, and payment of overtime while more new men are recruited.

But such a proposal would have to be accepted by the employers, the National Joint Council of Local Authorities, and the Government would have to be satisfied that the deal was "self-financing" and thus within pay guidelines. Mr Callaghan also made use of the fire officers' advice to deflect criticism by the Conservative Front Bench, and others, about firefighting troops being denied use of fire brigades' engines and appliances.

The statement said the officers emphasised their concern over cuts by untrained men of equipment that might

look to the public to be relatively simple to operate. "To use equipment to the troops could cause death," the officers were quoted as saying.

Questioned whether that concern applied to standard equipment as well as breathing apparatus, Mr Tom McGaffery, a Downing Street spokesman, replied that the officers had explained how long it took to train their men.

He quoted them as saying it took six months to learn the proper use of breathing apparatus, and "several weeks" for three or four men to learn how to get large extending ladders off their trailers, let alone use them in fire fighting.

Mr McGaffery added that the question had been discussed with the Army, and the non-use of fire station equipment had been discussed by the Army. Mr Callaghan also asked the officers to use what influence they had with the firemen to explain how seriously he meant the proposal put to the firemen's union leaders on Tuesday: that the Government was "prepared to consider what it could do to underwrite" an agreed formula for long-term basic pay. This was a genuine offer, Mr Callaghan said.

The Prime Minister also recorded in his statement his salute to the fire officers for staying at their posts. They had been the salvation of the fire service.

## Fatal fire is tackled by Gurkha troops

A man and two women died in fires at their homes yesterday. Another woman died after being rescued.

Mr James Larkins, aged 50, died in a fire at his home at Sandhurst, Berkshire, which was tackled by Gurkha soldiers. Flames prevented their reaching him. His mother, Mrs Sarah Larkins, aged 80, was rescued earlier by building workers.

Striking firemen at Bracknell left their picket lines to help, but the fire was under control when they arrived.

Mrs Isobel Reed, aged 61, a widow died in a fire at her home at Felking, Tyne and Wear, despite attempts by two soldiers to rescue her.

Mrs Kim Crook, aged 29, of Clarence Street, Penzance, Cornwall, died in a fire at her home.

Mrs Annie Clay Parry, aged 54, was dead on arrival at hospital after being rescued by police officers from an upstairs room at her home at Middleton, Greater Manchester. Picketing firemen left their station at Heywood to help.

Five firefighters, including two senior fire officers, were injured in a fire that wrecked an empty wing of a special school in Devon. One was believed to have broken his shoulder. The fire at Loggish School, Bickington, near Newton Abbot, was fought by retained firemen.

Families were moved out of 16 flats on the first four floors of Enzville Heights, a 22-storey block at Toxteth, Liverpool, when a fire broke out in an electricity substation feeder.

The Naafi is presenting games to the value of £5,000 to servicemen on stand by fire duties. Mr Edward McGowan, managing director, said: "These men are our customers and they are doing a job of work they did not seek."

Lord Watkinson, president of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday urged the Government to stand firm on the firemen's strike. Speaking in Birmingham, he said the outcome was crucial to the great number of pay claims still in the pipeline.

He accepted that the firemen had a good case but insisted that it could be met only in the long-term. They should continue to talk about reduced hours and the possibility of productivity schemes because there was no way they could be allowed to bulldoze their claim, he said.

Christopher Walker writes from Belfast: The Army said yesterday that since the firemen's strike began 25 cassette incendiary bombs have been planted in business premises in Northern Ireland. A further 16 "blast incendiaries" cans of petrol attached to charges of explosive, and four other bombs of more conventional design had also been planted.

The Provisional IRA's fire-bombing campaign continued yesterday when four armed men used mechanical diggers to break down the doors of a large printing works near the centre of Belfast. They planted four bombs, two of which exploded soon after the staff had fled.

Striking firemen in Ulster intend to urge the national executive of their union to expel all members not backing the strike. That would affect about 400 part-time firemen.

## Warnings to parents cover skateboards and plastic playthings

## Sturdy and simple toys make the best gifts

By Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

That sort of toys most likely to make satisfactory Christmas presents are sturdy and well made, versatile enough to be used in different sorts of play and simple enough to allow children to use their imagination, according to the December issue of *Which?* magazine, published today.

*Which?* kept track of the fate of children's Christmas presents in 70 families last year. Gifts that failed to arouse interest were often too young or too old for the child, while many plastic toys broke too easily. Parents complained about expensive but disappointing games packaged in smart boxes, and the influence of television advertising on children.

Lego and toys from the Fisher-Price range often came best, well in members' reports.

From the examples quoted, it seems that *Which?* members spent anything from £21 to £65 on Christmas presents for each child last year, and the amount is likely to go up. The skateboarding craze, for example, is not cheap, the magazine observes, though its tests showed that paying top prices of up to about £50 for boards did not necessarily mean that children would be pleased with what they got.

In fact the most expensive board in the *Which?* tests, a California Oakie at £49.99, had nuts that worked loose repeatedly. Five of the 15 boards in the tests had loose nuts that might be potentially dangerous.

Children should be given a say in choosing their skateboards, the magazine says, parents acting as "engineering consultants." It is advice that plastic or solid wooden decks will be best for beginners, and that the

board should have suspension allowing the board to move from side to side as well as up and down. It also found that children preferred boards with "kicktail" curves, helpful in performing such stunts as "kick-tails" and wheelies.

In tricycles, however, the children did not necessarily like the flashiest models. "Many preferred tricycles that were easy to pedal fast and easy to control," the magazine reports. The most popular with children, the Hughes Diet Squirt at £17, was not cheap, but *Which?* rates it "good but pricey" while nominating four other models "good value."

Sturdiness was a seasonal note. *Money Which?* also published by the Consumers' Association, has been examining the costs of having children at all. It found that a typical couple would face a cost of £15,400 at the end of the year if they decide to have a baby. Having two

children would cost them £23,800.

The figures take into account state contributions to the cost of raising a family. State education would cost £5,600 for each child over the years, and grants, benefits and tax reliefs take £3,100 off the bill for the first child and about £2,700 for the second.

To soften the blow, and help parents to feel they can still afford Christmas presents this year, *Money Which?* lists the main state benefits available to help to meet the cost of children.

There is no special provision, however, for cases like that of the three-year-old girl mentioned in *Which?* as having abandoned the toy rabbit, saw, annuals, paintbox and Pop-a-point pencil given her last year among £21.

Her verdict, quoted in the magazine, is: "Next Christmas, I want a gun."

## University share of cash to be cut

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

Universities are to get progressively less, and the total public funds allocated by the Government to higher education in the next five years, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, disclosed in a parliamentary written reply yesterday.

Government spending plans until 1981-82 were based on the assumption that the number of universities would increase by about 14 per cent in the next five years, while the number of advanced further education students would increase by about 39 per cent, Mrs Williams said.

Last year there were 271,800 university students and 244,200 advanced further education students, altogether 516,000. The Government expects 310,000 in the universities and 250,000 in advanced further education and technical training. The public expenditure White Paper, published last February,

was based on an assumed total of 560,000 higher education students by 1981. The division between different kinds of institutions was to be completed after discussion with the bodies concerned.

Delivering the Birkbeck College Foundation Oration in London last night, Mrs Williams said that although demand for higher education was expected to be growing throughout much of the 1980s demand from British students would probably drop sharply from the early 1980s, largely because of the fall in the birth rate.

Children now aged five or under should thus find it easier to get a place at university or a higher education college. However, universities and colleges would have to overcome difficulties in maintaining standards.

Universities have unfilled places in certain subjects, including about 20,000 in science, Mrs Williams said. "It will be no easy task to attract qualified young students into these

courses while maintaining standards."

She added that it was right and of mutual benefit that overseas scholars should form part of the higher education student body. But the Government would only allow resources permitted.

The Government was studying ways in which available resources could be given to students in countries most in need of assistance.

The concept of continuing or recurrent education was gaining ground. Mature adults should be able to return to education and training throughout their lives.

We should think in terms of a student-centred rather than institution-centred post-secondary education, with many combinations of attendance, subjects and levels of study, she said. She hoped the new Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education would significantly help to develop a coherent approach to recurrent education.

## Striking journalists may seek to spread dispute

From Ronald Faux  
Darlington

A call for the National Union of Journalists to extend industrial action to 100 provincial newspapers owned by Westminster Press is likely to be made to Mr Kenneth Ashton, the union's secretary today when he meets 107 journalists on strike at Darlington.

The strike, which affects the *Northern Echo*, the *Evening Despatch*, the *Darlington and Stockton Times*, and the *Durham Advertiser*, series has lasted nearly six months. None of the papers has been published for about four months since printing works refused to cross NUJ picket lines.

Mr Ashton will explain the outcome of a meeting on Monday between the union, the printing works and the *Northern Echo*. His statement is unlikely to satisfy the journalists since the employer has made no concession on the closed-shop issue, which is at the heart of the dispute.

Westminster Press is understood to be willing to relaunch the papers without victimisation. The company is willing to enter pay negotiations with all their unions at Darlington, the NUJ and the Government's

guidelines. A system of recruitment to be introduced to ensure that editors would not seek to employ any non-NUJ member they could find.

The NUJ in Darlington, representing journalists on all the newspapers, is almost certain to reject the formula and demand stronger action against Westminster Press. To make that fully effective, support would be obtained from the printing unions, who are thought to be worried about the prolongation of the strike.

Only printing workers belonging to the National Graphical Association are on strike at Darlington. Members of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants have returned to work. Bargaining has gone on between the NUJ and the NGA over spreading the strike to other printing works. The NGA provides journalists with a direct input machine in the introduction of new technology. The NGA sees such workers as a threat to its members.

Mr Josephine Kirk Smith, the sub-editor whose refusal to join the union started the dispute, is continuing to work on emergency editions with other non-NUJ colleagues.

## Representation in Commons of Ulster 'unjust'

Parliamentary representation should not be fixed solely by a formula based on the number of voters in a constituency, Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons, said yesterday. He opposed "disfranchising conditions" which have led to particular figures being accepted, and favoured preserving the organic nature of constituencies.

Mr Foot was giving evidence to another conference on issues affecting the United Kingdom as a whole. Setting it up implied that it was possible and desirable to consider representation for Northern Ireland without simultaneously considering the position in the rest of the United Kingdom.

It also implied that there was at least a prima facie case for an increase in Northern Ireland representation, that could be made without changes affecting Great Britain.

## Mistress finds home bare

By Annabel Ferriman

Miss Jennifer Davis, who won a legal battle on Monday to have her allegedly violent lover evicted from their flat, returned home yesterday to find it empty.

Mr Nehemiah Johnson had moved out in the morning and the furniture went with him. Miss Davis and her daughter, Cordelia, aged two, had to spend another night at the Chiswick refuge for battered wives, where they have been staying since October 3.

She hopes to move back into her £791 a week council flat today, if Hackney Borough Council can find her some furniture.

Miss Davis was given the right to the flat, on which she had a joint tenancy with her lover, when five judges of the Court of Appeal ruled on Monday by three to two that the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act, 1976, applied to unmarried as well as married women.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said social justice demanded that personal rights should take priority over property rights and that a woman should be able to live without fear in her home.

Accompanied by two staff workers from Chiswick Women's Aid and two women from the hostel, Miss Davis found only two plastic ornaments and some plates in the kitchen cupboard of her flat.

She said she was happy to be back but horrified to find the place empty. "I had expected to find it like this," she said. She disputed Mr Johnson's right to remove the furniture which included beds, a settee and a colour television set, and she said she would fight through the courts to get them back if necessary.

Miss Davis hopes eventually to get a transfer from her two-bedroom flat, which she and Mr Johnson moved into in May, because she does not want Mr Johnson to know where she is. Meanwhile people from the Chiswick hostel will stay with her.

Mr Johnson has said he intends to appeal to the House of Lords.

## Sheriff says authorities tried to scare him off

Sheriff Peter Thomson, the Scottish judge who faces dismissal from office because of alleged political activities, said yesterday that the authorities had tried to frighten him off. He also said in Glasgow that he intended to continue campaigning for an impartial plebiscite on Scotland's constitutional future.

Sheriff Thomson, aged 63, said he supposed there were ways in which he could have saved himself from the present situation, in which the Secretary of State was seeking his removal from office.

"I consider I am doing my duty," he said. "I think the wish of the authorities has been to frighten me off—to stop. I think this is pretty clear. Let us say they were doing it for what they thought was my own good."

Sheriff Thomson said he hoped to be in the Commons on Monday when his case is to be discussed, and that he hoped MPs would exhibit sympathy from their deliberations.

"I am in a better position than they are," he said. "The worst that can happen to me is that I shall have to join the dole queue. The worst that can happen to them is that they will have to live with themselves, knowing that they have opened a gate."

"The freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary are cornerstones of our liberty. If one is breached, the other is in danger. I should consider it a great honour to be invited to address the House of Commons."

The reason for this whole procedure must therefore be found within the four corners of this report. The matter must be decided on the report alone. The report is completely impartial, and before Parliament could be confirmed, it would be necessary to get something partisan in the report. There is no such thing. "I should consider it a great honour to be invited to address the House of Commons."

## 70m dangerous electric plugs in homes

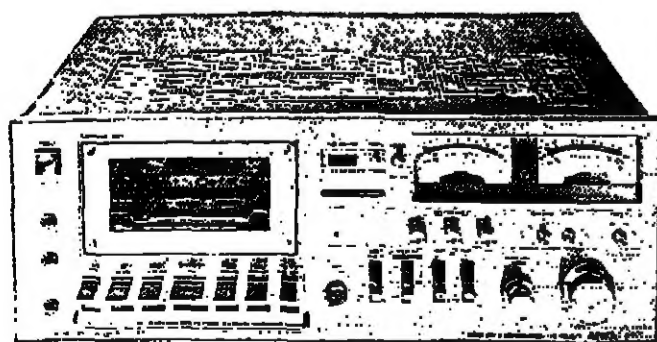
By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

More than 70 million potentially dangerous electric plugs are in use in homes in Britain, according to a survey published yesterday by the Electrical Research Association.

The association was commissioned to survey the condition of electric plugs in use. Of 1,503 plugs inspected, 432 (28.7 per cent) were faulty. Some had large chips, leaving live terminals exposed; others were held together only by adhesive tape and the flex wires. The commonest deficiency was ineffective cord grips, straining the terminal connections and sometimes pulling them loose.

In 1.5 per cent of the sample households, plugs were found to be incorrectly because they did not understand the colour coding.

## Upgrade to AIWA cassette decks



AD6800

- Top-of-the-range stereo cassette deck.
- New Flat Response Tuning system using 3rd head.
- Exclusive double needle peak and VU meters, the most precise and advanced metering system available.
- Impeccable performance; wow and flutter below 0.05% (WRMS).
- Dolby noise reduction and separate MPX filter.
- Peak hold facility; memory rewind; limiter; 3-step bias and equalisation switches; tape run indicator; cue/review; full auto-stop; Ferrite Guard Head and front DIN socket.

Area Sales and Service (UK) Ltd.  
Area Centre, 56-58 Bunsford Street, Marchmont St, Bloomsbury London WC1  
Telephone 01-278 2051.  
\*Dolby is a trademark of Dolby Laboratories.

## Scots less heavy drinkers than the English suppose

By Alan Hamilton

The cherished English image of the Scots as a race of irrepressible drinkers has been exposed as an exaggerated and incorrect misconception. Only Scotsmen over the age of 30 and Scotswomen of all ages keep over more often than their English counterparts; the rest are paragons of sobriety and good behaviour by comparison.

Research by the Christian Economic and Social Research Foundation, an English body, published today, shows that drunkenness among Scots youths is appreciably lower than in the same age group in England and Wales. But their elders make up for this abstemiousness with greater enthusiasm for the English image, after all, true overall; drunkenness is commoner north of the Border.

The findings are the distillation of 25 years of statistics on the incidence of convictions for drunkenness in courts throughout Great Britain, published as *The Differences Between Scottish Drunkenness and English Drunkenness in England and Wales*. The differences are not great; it is simply a commoner in Scotland, which the report ascribes to a far more frequent repetition of excessive drinking by a small minority of first offenders in drunkenness.

Objection to such comparison is frequently made because it is said that what policemen regard as "being drunk" is largely a variable and subjective value judgement. The report notes: "This can well be the case, but broken windows and obstreperous and comatose men are awkwardly factual whatever the police district or nationality."

The fluctuation in the per capita consumption of spirits appears to exert the greatest single influence on the number of offences; this trend was less evident among women until alcohol became freely available in supermarkets, a point of sale "dominated by women and

practically free from men during the daylight hours of the working week. Supermarkets also made drink cheaper, another contributory cause.

"This is not, of course, to say that beer drinkers do not get drunk—they do. But there is a distinct British tendency about inebriated beer drinkers... Inebriety requires either steady, silent drinking or the stimulus of some grand occasion for consumption. The latter is appreciably large amounts of water necessary to achieve a degree of intoxication sufficient to attract the attention of the police."

No such heroic endurance is needed to get tight on spirits. Since the late 1960s, per capita consumption of spirits has doubled in Great Britain, but throughout the 1970s the number of convictions for drunkenness has been half as much more in Scotland as in England and Wales.

The report admits its statistics on why people are brought before the courts. It is not generally realized, it says, that the lower tendency to be arrested for offences of drunkenness is a characteristic of Scottish youths, but it fails to explain whether that is through less of force or a charitable police outlook.

But among adults, the Scots are clearly way out in front. Drink offences among men over 30 have risen steadily since 1956, until in 1975 they were 106,500 in Great Britain, compared with 8,855 convictions. It is an influence that goes on affecting the behaviour of Scotsmen as they grow older, generation after generation, the report comments.

Scottish women over 30 show an even higher incidence, the 14,200 convictions in 1975 being more than three times the English rate. Argentine police on duty during the World Cup next year, in which England is no longer competing, are likely to find the statistics borne out by the facts.

## Prison system is at crisis point, RC report says

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

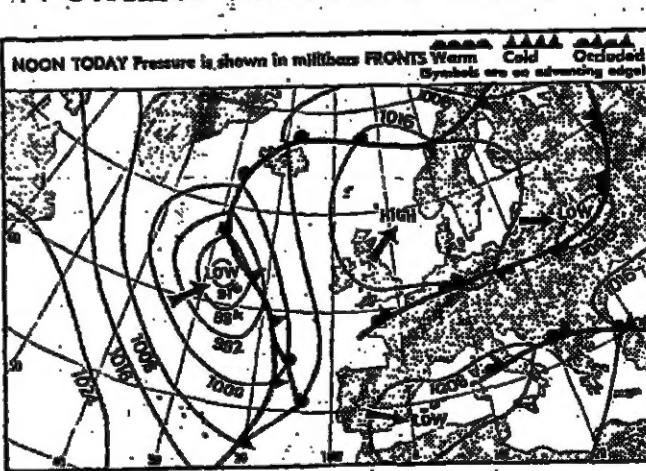
The prison system is at crisis point because of lack of agreement over what prisons are for and the conflicting wishes of the public, according to a document from the Roman Catholic Social Welfare Commission published today.

The tendency to demand stricter treatment and longer sentences on the grounds of deterrence may conflict with the goal of rehabilitation, the commission says. To regard the intention of prisons as merely to contain, even for the sake of protecting society, is to condemn the prison system to an ever increasing self-defeating task of accommodation for longer and longer.

The document is published as part of a campaign by the commission to encourage a public debate over prison policy. It says the Roman Catholic Church is concerned with the human rights of people in prisons because they are still people, and because nearly one prisoner in four, a far higher proportion than in the population at large, is a Roman Catholic.

The campaign was launched on Monday with a Letter in The Times from the president of the commission, the Right Rev Augustine Harris, a former prison chaplain and the chairman of the Roman Catholic Prisoners' Society. Miss Lynette Lynch, senior social worker of the London borough of Haringey, said the document says that before prison conditions are tightened or additional harshness is introduced the case must be examined in the light of the evidence. Increasing violence is not convincingly contained by making penal policy more violent. Longer sentences can increase the influence of contacts made in prison. Offenders may emerge from prison "hardened" to commit further crimes.

## Weather forecast and recordings



## Today

Sun rises: 7.44 am  
Sun sets: 5.53 pm  
Moon rises: 11.18 am  
Moon sets: 9.31 pm

Last quarter: December 3.  
Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.15 am.

High water: London Bridge, 4.41 am, 6.7m (21.90); 5.5 pm, 6.7m (21.9) ft; Ayr, 9.55 am, 11.5m (38.0) ft; 10.15 pm, 11.5m (38.0) ft; Dover, 1.44 am, 1.2m (3.9) ft; 2.4 pm, 5.3m (17.5) ft; Hull, 9.10 am, 6.4m (21.0) ft; 9.1 pm, 6.7m (21.9) ft; Liverpool, 8.0 am, 8.2m (26.8) ft; 2.12 pm, 8.3m (27.4) ft.

An anticyclone is over Scotland, with a weak trough of low pressure to the S. of Britain.

Forecasts for SE, SW and Central S. England, Channel Islands: Drizzle with a breeze and cold in places. Sea: 3 light; max temp 5°C (41°F).  
East Angles, E. NE, NW and Central N. England, Midlands, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Drizzle and misty rain, mainly dry.

## Yesterday

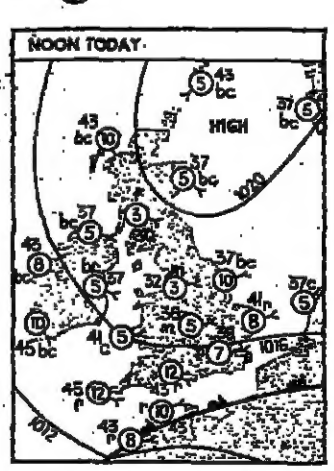
London: Temp: max, 6 am to 5 pm, 6°C (43°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 2°C (35°F). Humidity, 6

Sea: 3 light; max temp 5°C (41°F).  
East Angles, E. NE, NW and Central N. England, Midlands, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Drizzle and misty rain, mainly dry.

High water: London Bridge, 4.41 am, 6.7m (21.90); 5.5 pm, 6.7m (21.9) ft; Ayr, 9.55 am, 11.5m (38.0) ft; 10.15 pm, 11.5m (38.0) ft; Dover, 1.44 am, 1.2m (3.9) ft; 2.4 pm, 5.3m (17.5) ft; Hull, 9.10 am, 6.4m (21.0) ft; 9.1 pm, 6.7m (21.9) ft; Liverpool, 8.0 am, 8.2m (26.8) ft; 2.12 pm, 8.3m (27.4) ft.

An anticyclone is over Scotland, with a weak trough of low pressure to the S. of Britain.

Forecasts for SE, SW and Central S. England, Channel Islands: Drizzle with a breeze and cold in places. Sea: 3 light; max temp 5°C (41°F).  
East Angles, E. NE, NW and Central N. England, Midlands, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Drizzle and misty rain, mainly dry.



## 30-day forecast

The Meteorological Office yesterday issued the following forecast for the next 30 days. The month is expected to be marked by contrasting weather types, with periods of mild, fairly wet weather and milder S. winds, but also some very cold N. overcast. Over the month as a whole that is likely to result in mean temperatures and total rainfall near average in all areas. Cold frosts and snow will probably all occur with about average frequency.

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 5 pm, 6°C (43°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 2°C (35°F). Humidity, 6

High water: London Bridge, 4.41 am, 6.7m (21.90); 5.5 pm, 6.7m (21.9) ft; Ayr, 9.55 am, 11.5m (38.0) ft; 10.15 pm, 11.5m (38.0) ft; Dover, 1.44 am, 1.2m (3.9) ft; 2.





There was a distinct lack of bicycles about the place.

The students had packed their bags and gone home. By the time they returned, the college gardeners would be sweeping leaves.

It was a time for reflection, and as he crossed the quadrangle, Professor Marchant was beginning to wonder if he'd lost his touch.

Not long ago he could have counted on a packed house at the start of every lecture. Even for Milton.

But recently his students were turning up as much as a quarter of an hour late.

The professor glanced up at the clocktower as the hour was striking...eight, nine, ten. He looked at his Omega. Thirteen minutes past? Yes, thirteen minutes past.

No question about it.

Professor Marchant performed an adroit about-turn and hurried off to seek out Weelkes, the janitor.



## HOME NEWS

# Lord Todd answers critics of universities with reminder of their 'superb' aid to expansion

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Lord Todd, President of the Royal Society, suggested yesterday there were serious misunderstandings about the best way to encourage and harness scientific research in the United Kingdom.

He also said: "In these days of rampant egalitarianism our concern for an elite in science may be regarded by some as outmoded. But it is not. In science the best is infinitely more important than the second best: that is the belief of the society, and a country that ignores or forgets it does so at its peril."

Giving the anniversary address to the society, Lord Todd described the present as a disappointing period in British history. "Coming on a stream of oil from the North Sea does not conceal the fact that the white-hot technological revolution was never to pass and the pound in the pocket is far from being what it used to be," he said.

"In much of industry there has been so little profit for so long that some manufacturers are allowing plants to run down and even skimping on the research and development that must surely be essential to any regeneration of British industry."

At a time of youth's unsatisfied aspirations for opportunity, of growing egalitarianism often coupled with a lowering of educational standards, those working in education, and especially in higher education, sensed irony in the contrast between the Government's enthusiastic launching of the Robbins expansion in 1963 and the present stagnation.

Some feared that our universities might be irreparably damaged as a result of the present crisis. He did not share their pessimism. British intellectual life remained as vigorous as ever. Scientific research was still fuelled with success and full of promise. During the period 25 fellows of the society won Nobel Prizes, and had made outstanding contributions in many fields: radioastronomy, astrophysics, chemistry, neurophysiology, plant genetics and molecular biology.

But in the present economic gloom the cry went up: "What has all this exciting work done for the country's economic problems?"

Outright, politicians asked why a country in such economic straits should support academic research. Had not the time come when the universities should be harnessed to regeneration of the economy and research devoted to the needs of manufacturing industry: to making better transistors or cars or sewing machines?

"Such criticisms are based upon a profound misunder-

standing of what universities are for and on a failure to appreciate what they have done since the last war. It is too easily forgotten that between the forces and the Robbins report in 1963, government, industry and indeed, the country at large, was crying out for more and more trained scientists and engineers.

"In the chorus of complaint about their irrelevance to the country's economic needs it is too often overlooked that the universities have discharged their responsibility superbly. In less than a quarter of a century the numbers graduating in science and technology from British universities have multiplied by three and the numbers graduating with higher qualifications in technical subjects have increased still faster.

For the first time industry had enough technically trained people to satisfy its needs. Moreover, we have lived through the period when the burgeoning universities and polytechnics were two of the principal consumers of their own products: trained and talented young people."

People who complained that universities had become irrelevant forgot that they had accomplished economically and without fuss the enormous task of expansion they were set by the nation less than 15 years ago.

Complaints were made of something wrong in the education system, those who complained that new graduates did not slip easily into their new roles in industry. But it did not follow that there was anything radically wrong with university courses. Acclimatisation of recruits in industry had always been difficult. The reasons to ride dissatisfaction thus undoubtedly existed were more subtle.

It could be argued that in our rush to expand university education we had sucked into the stream of tertiary education a substantial number of those who might have been more appropriately trained through the more vocational education that was the function of polytechnics.

Although minor changes could be made, Lord Todd saw nothing fundamentally wrong with university training for those who were to play a leading role in industry, and especially for those who were to provide the drive behind research and development.

Research in universities had a double function. One was a training role vital to the development of creative scientists and technologists which, although exercised primarily at the postgraduate level, also permeated the undergraduate years in its effect on teaching and on the liveliness of the staff.

Second was the advancing of the frontiers of knowledge. To fulfil that dual role, academic research must be essentially uncommitted. That was not to say that it should have no objective; all research must be committed to that extent; but it should not be dominated by short-term practical or economic reasons.

For that reason, he believed, proposals for joint university PhD courses, or that universities should orient their research to meet specific industrial needs, were misguided. Industry was the proper place for industrial research.

That did not belittle many contributions made incidentally by university departments to industrial research and development.

"There is often talk of a gap between certain industries and the university departments of science and technology related to them. But to the extent that it exists it is a gap of understanding which can be put right by closer personal contacts. It will not be closed by endeavouring to make university research departments do the job of industry or vice versa."

Universities clearly had to live with whatever level of research funding the Government could afford. But to do so effectively needed a selection and concentration on those centres where the greatest potential lay.

University research faced two main difficulties. First, there was growing obsolescence of equipment, owing in part to spreading money for research too thinly over too many places, not all of which were of the standard that they should be.

Second, new universities had been created and the old had expanded so rapidly that they had consumed a large proportion of their own products to provide adequate staff.

A very large number of permanent university posts were thus created and filled by young men and women of effectively the same age group, all of them with many years of service ahead before retirement.

On top of that, the acute financial stringency experienced by the universities in recent years, coupled with an easing of this pressure on salaries, had caused universities to restrict severely the filling of posts rendered vacant by retirement. Such action, understandable from the university administrators' standpoint, had almost blocked the way ahead for many of the bright young men and women now coming forward.

That state of affairs had in varying degree affected most faculties in the universities but its effects were especially dangerous in science. For those bright young scientists, although small in number, were the feeders for our future industries.



Mr Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, with stones from the old Blackfriars station preserved in the new.

## Electrification of more BR main lines to be considered

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

The Government is to make a fresh review with British Rail of the case for further main-line electrification in the light of the fuel situation.

Early candidates might include the East Coast main line first as far as Peterborough and then to York and Edinburgh; and the East Anglian line from Colchester to Clacton.

In its official response to the select committee's report on the railways published in May, the Government said that until recently it was difficult to justify further main-line electrification, even with higher oil costs against modern diesel locomotives. But oil was expected to become scarcer and dearer and long-term prospects generally must be taken into account in considering further projects. Greater reliance would need to be placed on sources of energy other than oil.

The Government welcomes the select committee's view that the railways have an important future and that no big cuts need be made in the present system.

The 1977 forecasts, included in the Government's response, show £439m direct costs and £523m indirect costs for the railway passenger business, against revenue of £565m.

Inner-City, with revenue of £275m and costs of £162m, is expected to contribute £113m to indirect costs, and London and South-east, with revenue of

£217m and costs of £165m, should contribute £52m.

But cross-country services, with costs of £69m and revenue of £26m, are expected to fall by £26m to meet even their direct costs, and provincial city services, with costs of £43m and revenue of £30m, should fall by £13m. Total government support to British Rail passenger services this year is estimated at £356m.

Commuter difficulties: Mr Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, called yesterday for a public debate on the "deeply serious issues" of South-east commuter fares and services.

Defending the railways' decision to raise commuter fares by 16 per cent in January compared with 14 per cent for travellers generally, Mr Parker said that was where the costs arose, and common sense dictated a recognition of that reality.

The underuse of enormous assets, generally for only four hours a day, created special difficulties in London and the South-east, which could not be met by waving a magic wand. It was a "very deep problem", which raised complicated issues and deserved more public discussion than it had received.

Speaking at the opening of a £22m redevelopment of Blackfriars station, Mr Parker said the development land tag might frustrate further schemes such as that proposed for Liverpool Street.

## Group will study 'racism' in schools

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

The Commission for Racial Equality decided yesterday to set up a working party to monitor alleged racist activities in schools after receiving "scores of complaints" from members of the public about racist incidents in schools in their areas.

Mr Clifton Robinson, deputy chairman of the commission and former head of a school in Leicester, said it had received reports of racist activities, most involving the National Front, in schools in Calderdale, Bristol, Cleveland, Merseyside, Tyne and Wear, Rotherham, Leicester, and parts of London.

A meeting of many national organisations, convened by the commission yesterday, agreed that measures must be taken to combat what Mr Robinson described as "deliberate attempts by outsiders to penetrate the school system and to inject racism into schools."

Those present at the meeting, including representatives of the Department of Education and Science, the Home Office, the National Association of Community Relations Councils, the National Union of Teachers, the National Association of Head Teachers, the Association of County Councils, the Association of Municipal Authorities, the National Association for Multi-Racial Education and the Inner London Education Authority.

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Mr Robinson gave examples of the activities complained of. In one school in London, National Front members had persuaded some parents to withdraw their children from schools with pupils of different races when multiracial activities were going on.

In another former school, Uplands Junior, National Front leaders had come in and advised the black children, some of the teachers and parents, in a "very serious manner" that they should leave the school. A head teacher had been put under great pressure to take out of the religious education courses parts that dealt with the religious of other races.

Mr Sam Fisher, chairman of the National Union of Teachers' education committee, who attended yesterday's meeting, said the union was drawing up a statement of advice for members on ways to combat racism in schools. He said the union would also be looking at the possibility of the spread of attempts by racists to penetrate the schools, but such activities would still only "very peripheral."

Mr Frank Cummings, a commissioner with the Commission for Racial Equality and head of a school in West Bromwich, said the union would still be active in schools was infinitesimal.

## Dentists say service is in danger of collapse

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

A meeting of dentists declared yesterday that the dental service under the National Health Service was in danger of total destruction. Mr Eric, Secretary of State for Social Services, they said, should either accept his responsibility for providing a comprehensive service or hold a public inquiry to consider alternative methods of caring for patients.

About two hundred dentists attended a meeting at Central Hall, Westminster. It was organized by the Trent Regional Action Committee, formed to protest about scales of fees under which a full service was said to be impossible, and a government move to claw back expenses.

Mr John Harris, of Chesterfield, said the friendly relationship between dentist and patient was breaking down because the dentist could not afford to practice certain treatments and had to ask more patients to pay. Patients were no longer seeking the treatment that was their right.

Mr Nigel Kneer, of Walsby,

said the Government had imposed sanctions on the service by the £20 charge for dentures.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, MP, opposition spokesman on health and social services, said NHS morale had never been lower. The meeting was an expression of similar dismay among doctors and nurses.

The meeting carried a motion to set up an independent survey of practice expenses and for an extraordinary general meeting of the British Dental Association to consider representation on negotiating bodies. Junior doctors' protest: The British Medical Association is supporting junior hospital doctors who are refusing to pay recent increases of as much as 100 per cent in rental charges levied by health authorities. The monthly rent for a consulting room has gone up from about £40 to £75-80. The charges are deducted from salaries.

The junior doctors are to inform employing authorities of their intention not to pay the increases, so that any subsequent deduction for new amount would be unlawful.

## Matron for trial after Bolton inquest verdict

A coroner yesterday ordered that Mrs Helen Messer, matron of a private nursing home, should appear at a Crown Court after the jury at an inquest at Bolton, Greater Manchester, had returned a verdict of manslaughter on Mrs Mary Newton, aged 81, a patient at the home.

Mrs Messer, aged 42, had earlier denied trying to "finish off" Mrs Newton, at Ladyman nursing home, Bolton. Mr David Clarke, the coroner, said she would be given bail of £50.

Mrs Messer admitted giving her patient a morphine injection just before she died, but said it was to kill her pain. She also rejected allegations by an auxiliary nurse that she pressed a pillow to Mrs Newton's head in an attempt to "finish her off."

Mrs Josette Bradbury, a nurse, had said earlier that Mrs Messer told her: "I have been doing this for four years. Mrs Newton died two days later."

Mrs Bradbury also said she was shocked and horrified when she found Mrs Messer leaning on a pillow over Mrs Newton's head. She said she was told by the matron to go away if she did not like what she was seeing.

Mrs Messer said yesterday that she could understand nothing of what Mrs Bradbury alleged, and added that she had a "bee in her bonnet" because she had no SRN badge.

Mrs Messer denied trying to smother Mrs Newton after allegedly saying "I cannot stand it any longer." She also denied allegations of trying to help out "any other dying patients." She admitted that by the strict letter of the law she should not have had an amputee of morphine at the home. But she gave Mrs Newton the injection, and did not think it necessary to telephone a doctor beforehand.

## BBC chairman predicts 30% rise in licence fees

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC will probably be seeking a rise of about 30 per cent in television licence fees by next July, Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the corporation, said yesterday. Introducing the annual report, he said the BBC expected a deficit of between £10m and £17m at the time. It was estimated that there were about 850,000 licence fee evaders, who cost the BBC £12m a year.

Both Sir Michael and Mr Ian Trethowan, director-general, emphasized the need for the Government to establish a fee settlement to last more than one year. Sir Michael recalls in the report that the single-year system was adopted for the first time this year.

If repeated it would create a situation dangerously akin to an annual grant-in-aid. That had been repeatedly rejected by government committees of inquiry as being bound, sooner or later, to undermine the BBC's constitutional independence.

The report contained in the BBC's handbook for 1978, explained the point. "We work on a five-year rolling budget, but would find it difficult if not impossible to do so if annual or even biennial increases became the norm." At anything less than two years, a dangerously short period, there was cause for alarm.

Domestic services had a total income of £232,872 and expenditure was £229,945, leaving a surplus of £2,927,000 to set off against the £10,380,000 from the previous year. The report says:

Had it not been for continuing economies in all services, the effect of pay policy on salaries and wages, and especially buoyant colour receiver sales, the BBC would have ended its financial year close to the maximum of its borrowing powers.

As was, thanks to the buoyancy of conversions to colour and some unexpectedly additional income from sales of licences to the Post Office, we were able to keep well within the limits, though still in deficit by £3.5m on March 31, in spite of inflation at rates still in double figures.

The Post Office estimates that 10,500,000 colour receivers are in use against 7,500,000 black-and-white sets. The BBC reports a reduction in staff for the second year running: 25,719, compared with 25,963 the year before.

On regional policy, the board of governors is being encouraged. "In Scotland our policy has sometimes been misunderstood and regarded as an English attempt to put a brake on what is seen there as an inexorably advancing vehicle of constitutional change. That is not our policy."

The governors are "sympathetically aware" of the frustration felt in Wales. People had expected tangible results of the decision to use the fourth network in Wales for television programmes in Welsh, but that was held up by financial factors. "We do hope that some special dispensation will be given in favour of this good cause before too long."

BBC Handbook 1978, incorporating the annual report and accounts, 1976-77, (BBC, 35 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1K 4AA, £2).

## Strong Labour opposition to direct elections Bill

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Arrangements for United Kingdom elections temporarily resident in other EEC countries to vote in the European Parliament direct elections and for EEC nationals resident in the United Kingdom to vote in British constituency elections, have caused proposals put forward in the latest batch of amendments to the direct elections Bill, published yesterday.

The Bill, strongly opposed by most Labour backbenchers, begins its committee stage in the Commons today.

There are amendments from the Scottish and Welsh nationalists and from the Ulster Unionists, challenging the allocation of 81 seats to the United Kingdom. The Scots want it to be 87, with 16 in each of eight constituencies in Scotland; the Welsh want a total of 81, with 14 in each of four constituencies in Wales.

The crucial Labour-Conservative amendment to leave out its section providing for the regional list system of proportional representation to be used for EEC elections is tabled by Mr Willey (Sunderland, North, Lab.), vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party; Mr du Cann (Tamworth, C), chairman of the Conservative backbenchers' 1977 Committee; Mr Rippon (Hexham, C), leader of the Conservative group at the European Parliament; Mr Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab.), Mr Lyon (York, Lab.) and Mr Channon (Southend, West, C).

Mr Hugh Dykes, Conservative MP for Harrow, East, and a former member of the Conservative delegation to the European Parliament, said the United Kingdom nationals and citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies, who can give evidence that they will be temporarily resident in other member states, the policy must have a vote, provided they give two weeks' notice.

At the third hearing by the Commons Expenditure Committee into last summer's report by the Central Policy Review Staff (the "think tank") on Britain's overseas representation, the idea that the Foreign Office was heavily biased towards the "establishment" was criticized as unjust, irrelevant, and a debatable form of inverted snobbery.

Representatives of the Diplomatic Service Association and the more widely based Society of Civil and Public Servants, as well as the chairman of the staff side of the department, joined the protest.

The Foreign Office needed to recruit from a wider social and educational background. Mr Mark Heath, the staff side chairman, told the defence and external affairs subcommittee of the expenditure committee that the review staff had painted a misleading picture on the point.

The composition of the Diplomatic Service had changed in recent years and would continue to change, he said. Recruitment was wide open. The social background of staff no longer mattered.

Mr Hugh Cortazzi, repre-

senting the Diplomatic Service Association, said it did not occur to most people in the service to inquire about the social background of colleagues.

Mr Alan Grey, of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said no members of his association, which represented 40 per cent of staff, thought of themselves as belonging to a privileged class.

With MPs adding comments, Tuesday's hearing provided the most unambiguous criticism of the report so far presented to the committee. Criticism recommended in the report's findings that those involving a two-thirds reduction in embassy information staff; and cheaper, less formal entertaining.

Mr Heath said that although diplomatic entertaining at home was in many ways more desirable than entertaining outside, it would create great difficulties of administration. Diplomats' wives would need well equipped kitchens and freezers. Entertainment restrictions would have a disastrous effect on promotion of British interests.

Staff representatives also disputed the report's findings that the status of commercial staff and diplomatic morale generally were low. Mr Heath said that if the latter was true it was because the review staff report had undermined morale.

Mr Cortazzi added that the Diplomatic Service attached great importance to commercial work.

The Arts Council decided yesterday to defer consideration of a non-statutory public lending right scheme. Authors will therefore have to reply on a private member's Bill sponsored by Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, but there is little chance of it being enacted this session.

Authors groups have already expressed support for a non-statutory scheme because of the long delays already incurred. But the Society of Authors, has said such a scheme would be highly vulnerable, since it could be abolished in time of stringency.

The Arts Council explained yesterday that it could not consider a large new commitment before it knew the size of its grants in aid for next year.

Two trawlers detained

Two Spanish trawlers were escorted into Milford Haven last night after being detained in the Bristol Channel by the frigate Diomedea, under suspicion of fishing inside British waters without the necessary licence.

No potato shortage

Enough potatoes have been harvested in Britain to meet demand until the spring, the Potato Marketing Board said yesterday.

## Look what Thai has for you: Our new Business Class with full value for full fare.



When you fly with Thai's brand new DC-10's at full economy fare you will now have access to our new Business Class. We've created this extra Class to ensure that you have a smooth ride over the continents to the Far East and Australia with a chance to work or relax as you please. In complete comfort. With plenty of room. Smooth as silk.

Here are some details: At the airport you will check in at the first class counter and enjoy the use of first class executive lounges where available in transit halls. On board you

will be welcomed in our Business Class with 28 seats, usually booked for a maximum of 21 passengers, all seats fully reclineable and only 8-across. A non-smoker section. A stand-up bar with serve-yourself drinks. First class food and wine. A special menu-card. Free loan of calculators, dictation and office equipment. Blankets and large pillows for all. Special improved earphones for your inflight entertainment, and a cabin attendant constantly on duty.

You may choose your favourite reading among international and national

magazines and newspapers and we even have a businessman's library.

When you arrive at your destination, special Business Class tags on your luggage will ensure fast handling. All these "extras" and many more, not mentioned, will help you arrive fit and rested and well prepared for your assignment. Our Business Class is a new concept in intercontinental flying.

Smooth as silk

working party has been set up by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to consider whether charities should be allowed greater freedom to buy advertising time on television and radio.

Trains on Boxing Day

Trains are to run on Boxing Day for the first time since 1974 because the day is a Monday and demand may arise.

هكذا من الاص



## HOME NEWS

## Schoolchildren 'put on drugs because class behaviour does not fit'

By Mark Vaughan, of The Times Educational Supplement

Tens of thousands of children are being put on long-term programmes of drug therapy simply because their behaviour does not fit in with the requirements of their schools, according to an article in this week's issue of *New Society*.

Mr Steven Box, lecturer in sociology at Kent University, Canterbury, says there is a "scandalous silence" surrounding such "silencing" of schoolchildren. The reason for giving drugs to control their behaviour is that they are diagnosed as "hyperactive", he adds.

However, he maintains there has so far been a complete failure by the medical world, or education authorities, to prove that hyperactivity is a genuine disease.

Last night the Department of Health and Social Security commented: "There is no evidence of any abuse or wrongful prescribing of drugs in the way the article suggests is happening. 'Hyperactive' is not a term the department uses."

"School medical doctors do not prescribe drugs. They can be prescribed only by a general practitioner, hospital or in the case of mental health, a psychiatrist."

In his article Mr Box says treatment given to schoolchildren includes individual psychotherapy, behaviour therapy, and in some cases brain surgery. But by far the most favoured method of treatment is drug therapy.

He says there is a whole industry in America based on the diagnosis of hyperactive children, with between 500,000 and a million children diagnosed as hyperactive. He argues that there are worrying signs that the same approach is being taken in Britain, where the medical world is being hounded in British classrooms.

Although hyperactivity is "far less well documented here than in America, there is, he maintains, an epidemic of psychiatric disorders among schoolchildren taking place, on a pattern similar to that in the United States, though on a much smaller scale."

Mr Box notes that the Department of Health and Social Security

ment of Education and Science says that hyperactivity is an important symptom of maladjustment. In 1950, he says, 537 full-time pupils were classified as maladjusted. By 1970 the total was more than 5,000, and two years ago was nearly 14,000.

The typical procedures for diagnosing hyperactivity are disturbing, Mr Box says, because they have nothing to do with disease but everything to do with deviance.

Hyperactivity "violates important school norms about paying attention to teacher, obeying teacher, and being responsive to teacher's wishes, instructions or commands; not interfering with other children; not answering teacher back or threatening or actually assaulting teacher; not mistreating or damaging school property; being orderly and disciplined."

"American schools, particularly in poor Negro ghettos, and English schools in urban slums and ethnically mixed areas, are being transformed from places where children attend educational courses to places where they receive courses in medical treatment."

Mr Box says the main drugs being administered to hyperactive schoolchildren are stimulants such as methylphenidate, dexamphetamine and magnesium pemoline. Only in a minority of cases are non-stimulants being given.

Since there is no physical sign of disease, he says, the favourite procedure is to look at a child's behaviour, in the classroom, in group participation and attitude toward authority. "Hyperactive" classroom behaviour includes, according to Mr Box, fidgeting, humming, making odd noises, or being easily frustrated.

He argues that during high unemployment many schoolchildren, particularly lower-class and ethnically underprivileged boys, "naturally cause problems."

The frustration and humiliation they experience show in delinquency, truancy, disobedience and other behaviour that upsets figures of authority, including parents and especially teachers. Drugs are then administered to damp and confuse the child's scarcely heard protest.

## New powers from today on violence by squatters

Important provisions of the Criminal Law Act 1977, take effect from today, including new powers over squatting and reforms of the offence of conspiracy.

Part 1 of the Act means that the offence of conspiracy is restricted to agreements to commit criminal offences, and the penalty will be more closely linked to the penalty for the completed offence.

Part II replaces common law on such areas as forcible entry and detainer, where someone has entered peacefully but maintains possession by force. Five specific offences are created, including using or threatening violence to secure entry where another person is present, and failing to leave when required to do so by a displaced resident or protected intending occupier.

The Campaign against a Criminal Trespass Law said that this legal change might threaten people taking part in work-in or sit-ins, and a national scheme is being organised to keep a watch on the working of the new law.

Other provisions include extending the scope of the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, which means that the police can now deal with blue films used on film above 16mm in ordinary cinemas. In future members of the public will be unable to bring private prosecutions and the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions will be required before a prosecution can be taken.

In driving cases, the concept of "dangerous" driving or cycling is removed from the Road Traffic Act, 1972.



The Prince of Wales with four cartoons of himself by Barry Fantoni at the London Press Club's exhibition in aid of the jubilee appeal.

## Inquiry into rate-support grant

By Christopher Warman Local Government Correspondent

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has ordered an inquiry into the distribution of next year's government rate-support grant to find out why some authorities suffering from urban deprivation have failed to benefit.

Already, local authorities particularly in county areas have said that it will be difficult to keep rate rises to the 10 per cent national average forecast by the Government.

Cheshire County Council yesterday said that it would be unrealistic to expect the council to be able to hold to the average.

The county believed it would lose £2.5m grant for next year, the fifth year in which the non-metropolitan counties have had the overall grant reduced, although preliminary figures show that Cheshire is likely to lose much less in grant than other counties.

At the same time as the Government published the rate-support grant order, explaining the announcement of November

18 by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, the AMA held a seminar in London to discuss the matter.

Mr Jack Smart, chairman, congratulated Mr Shore for adopting the distribution formula they wanted, as a way to favour the inner cities and areas with high levels of urban difficulties.

But he added: "A few authorities with urban deprivation problems did not benefit. We do not yet know why these anomalies occurred and we intend to discover how they happened."

## Welsh language is in decline, report says

From Tim Jones Cardiff

The Welsh language is dying. That is the inescapable conclusion of a report into Welsh social trends published today by the Welsh Office. It seems that, after holding fast against armed invasion and bygone discriminatory legislation, the language is succumbing to the mass media and English immigration. Where the edict that prevented schoolchildren from speaking their native tongue failed, *Kojac* and *Rock Follies*, it seems, are succeeding.

The report shows that the number of people who speak Welsh has declined by almost 40 per cent over the 50 years 1921-71. Now the language is at the crossroads, for only a fifth of the population's 2,765,000 were able to speak Welsh in 1971.

The great rural counties of Gwynedd and Dyfed, which span the whole of west Wales, remain a stronghold of the language, but the situation is not encouraging. Evidence shows that the apparent strength of the language in those areas is partly due to the outward migration of the young leaving behind a high proportion of older Welsh-speaking people.

Within Wales the report shows there were two main groups of movement before the 1971 census. The first was a net flow of population from Gwynedd to Clywd, and the second was within industrial South Wales.

South Glamorgan lost population to Mid Glamorgan and to a lesser extent to Gwent. Overall Mid Glamorgan gained population from the other Welsh counties.

In Clywd the gain from Gwynedd was small compared with large inflows from England, particularly from the North-west and to a lesser extent from West Midlands. The

net loss from Gwynedd to the rest of Wales was more than given by a net gain from England.

Dyfed also lost population to Wales and other parts of Britain and it is that trend of young people migrating from the Welsh-speaking areas, while English people move in to retire or set up small family businesses or merely to enjoy a better quality of unemployment, that disturbs people who are fighting for the language.

Mr Dafydd Williams, general secretary of Ffwd Cymru, said yesterday: "Statistically there is no doubt that the Welsh language is declining. Urgent action is now needed by central government schools and commercial enterprises. Wales expects the Government to keep its promise by providing a fourth television channel, to give a continuous Welsh language service."

Most Welsh watchers concede that the dominance of the English media, particularly in television, and the lack of Welsh language daily newspaper contribute greatly to the decline of the language.

In other sections the report shows that a lower proportion of the population have a level or equivalent in Wales than elsewhere in Britain. Household size is greater in Wales than in Britain, but the number of earners to a household is lower.

While average household income and expenditure have increased rapidly over the past few years, the Welsh salary levels remain less than 90 per cent of the United Kingdom figure.

The proportion of income derived from wages and salaries is lower in Wales, but the proportion received from social security benefits is substantially higher. *Welsh Social Trends* (Statistical Office, Cardiff, 53.30).

## New help for the homeless becomes effective today

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

All homeless people are entitled to some help from their housing authorities under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which comes into force in England and Wales today. But only those who fall within priority groups and who have not made themselves homeless will be entitled to permanent accommodation.

The new Act recognizes that homelessness is so widespread that it can no longer be treated as an emergency to be met by temporary accommodation, but is a basic housing matter demanding that the people affected should be rehoused permanently. The main purpose

is to make housing authorities, which have pools of accommodation available, help homeless people instead of leaving it to social service authorities to provide temporary accommodation for those in urgent need.

The priority groups include families with dependent children, pregnant women, people vulnerable because of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability and those homeless because of an emergency such as fire, flood or other disaster. The main groups excluded are the single homeless and childless couples, but housing authorities must nevertheless help them to find their own accommodation.

## Two special hostels open

From John Chatter

Manchester claimed yesterday that the opening today of two hostels makes the city the first big housing authority in Britain to eliminate hotel bed-and-breakfast accommodation for homeless families and the first to respond to the new Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

The hostels, in Didsbury and Chorlton-cum-Hardy, with an existing hostel at Moorbank,

provide temporary accommodation for 40 homeless families. The average length of stay is expected to be between three and four weeks. Families will then move to permanent homes provided by the city housing department or to private accommodation arranged by themselves.

Both hostels, formerly hotels, were acquired by the city council when it had more than 50 families in bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

## Benefit scheme 'in danger of collapse'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

So many people now depend on supplementary benefit that the scheme is in danger of collapse, the Child Poverty Action Group says today in evidence to the review of the entire scheme. At the same time both the long-term unemployed and children are penalized because the basic benefit rates are too low to meet their needs, it adds.

The group argues the review will be pointless if it simply produces minor reforms to the scheme, which Professor David Donnison, chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, has said is so complicated that the staff administering it often cannot understand it. Instead, the review should recommend changes to other parts of the social security system to reduce the numbers of people dependent on supplementary benefit.

The setting up of the review has raised expectations of major reform. For the sake of the 4,750,000 people dependent on supplementary benefit in this country these expectations must not be dashed.

The review was set up in September, 1976, after the commission's first annual report had criticized the way the scheme had developed. The results are expected next year. The group says the review should propose increases in the other main social security benefits, particularly national insurance and disability benefits. It should also come out firmly in favour of a generous child benefit scheme.

Attaching up the Safety Net for the Poor, Child Poverty Action Group, 1 Mickle Street, London, EC2P 3BP.

## More than half au pair girls 'are overworked'

By David Nicholson-Lord

A survey showing that well over half the au pair girls in Britain are overworked by their host families has been presented to the Home Office as part of a new campaign to secure more protection for foreign girls.

The survey, one of the most comprehensive undertaken covering 1,024 girls throughout the country, was designed by London University Computing Services to provide comparisons with the advice contained in the Home Office booklet, *Au Pair in Britain*.

According to the survey, 60 per cent of the girls work more than the 30 hours a week recommended by the Home Office, 12 per cent work more than 30 hours and 67 per cent did not receive a copy of the official booklet, as they were summoned to when they entered Britain.

Of those questioned, 29 per cent changed their host families after their arrival. The main reasons included overwork, lack of free time and time to study, and unsatisfactory living conditions. Two thirds of those who work more than 30 hours receive less than £9 weekly pocket money.

Dom Placid Mevink, chairman of International Youth Welfare, which sponsored the questionnaire, said yesterday that it provided positive evidence of the very unsatisfactory position of au pair girls in Britain.

A large number of girls are exploited and used as cheap domestic labour, he said. International Youth Welfare was set up to protect the interests of overseas students in Britain and has more than fifty affiliated organizations.

## CONGRATULATIONS VAUXHALL MOTORS!



Vauxhall Motors of Ellesmere Port have made enormous strides in fuel conservation.

As major industrial consumers of gas, they have significantly improved the efficiency of their gas-using plant and achieved dramatic fuel savings.

This year, on their heat treatment furnaces alone they have reduced fuel consumption by 56%—from 115,000 to 50,500 therms per year, and greatly reduced maintenance and replacement costs by changing to a new type of burner. When present work has been completed there will be a total saving throughout the plant of 600,000 therms annually.

These savings are the outcome of close co-operation between Vauxhall and the North West Gas Technical Consultancy Service. And it's made them this year's Gas Energy Management Award winners.

The G.E.M. Award is made every year by British Gas to the company and Regional Technical Consultancy team who, working together, show the most successful increase in gas-using efficiency. There were seventeen other finalists this year, and all won substantial prizes of higher plant efficiency and fuel saving.

If you're interested in running your plant more efficiently, or are looking for expert advice about installing new plant, or changing fuels, call the Technical Consultancy Service of your Gas Region or send in the coupon below. A preliminary chat is quite free. It could save you a lot of money.

And—who knows!—win you the G.E.M. Award next year.

To: British Gas Dept. 371, 326 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PT.  
I would like to know more about how gas can help my business ☐  
Also I would like to learn about the British Gas School of Fuel Management ☐ (Please tick as appropriate)

Name

Company

Address

Tel.

BRITISH GAS







## OVERSEAS

# Abortion debate holds up pay for 240,000 US government staff

From David Sikes  
Washington, Nov 30

The 240,000 employees of the Department of Labour and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are waiting anxiously for a solution to a long-running dispute in Congress which has blocked their pay from being raised.

Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have been arguing for several months over the delicate issue of federally-funded abortions for women with low incomes.

The dispute is holding up final approval of a \$60,000 (about £33,000) pay increase for the two departments. This should have been cleared by the end of September, but the deadline has been extended twice to keep new changes flowing.

There is now strong resistance to yet another delay. Numerous attempts have been made to find a compromise between the exceptionally hard line on abortion adopted by the House and the more slightly more liberal posture of the Senate.

With the combined backing of President Carter and the Supreme Court, who feel that the Federal Government should not be obliged to finance abortions for the poor, the House wants to limit help to those women whose life would be endangered by giving birth and to victims of rape and incest, under certain strict conditions.

The Senate would also like to extend federal funds to cases where pregnancy would cause severe and long-lasting physical health damage. It also advocates less restrictive conditions for rape and incest victims.

When both Houses of Congress met for the second time this month yesterday to try to resolve their differences, anti-abortion members of the House of Representatives were once again adamant in their refusal to accept any compromise along the lines they proposed.

Mr Henry Hyde, a Republican from Illinois who sponsored the original House version of the Bill, has claimed all along that any changes would provide gaping loopholes.

Special exceptions for rape and incest victims invited "massive fraud", he said, while any exceptions for severe and long-lasting health damage "trades a human life for judgment about the health of a woman".

The final outcome was a 205 to 183 vote in the House last night against any compromise version. The Senate had earlier voted by a margin of 44 to 21 in favour of the latest compromise.

Throughout the long debate the Administration has resisted the temptation to bring pressure to bear on Congress to settle its differences, although it would obviously like the overall appropriations Bill to be adopted as soon as possible.

Its resistance is probably partly due to the fact that President Carter is concentrating his efforts on other equally controversial draft legislation now before Congress, principally his unpopular energy Bill.

He has probably also wanted to avoid any new confrontation with the black community, which has strenuously attacked him for ignoring the plight of the underprivileged.

Black women, who tend to be poorer than whites, have benefited most from federally-funded abortions. Figures show that of the country's 1,100,000 abortions performed last year, nearly a third were paid for by federal money.

The principal argument in favour of continuing to finance abortions is, of course, that poor women will otherwise be forced to seek abortions in back alleys or have children that they can ill afford to keep.

As an alternative, President Carter has promised more federal money for birth control, but this has not yet materialised.

## Mr Bhutto's discredited security force disbanded

From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, Nov 30

The martial law authorities today disbanded the federal security force created by Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, in 1973. An Interior Ministry statement said the force had been used by Mr Bhutto as an instrument of oppression and political intimidation.

Although the federal security force was in theory under the administrative control of the Interior Ministry, it was known to have been used by Mr Bhutto and his aides to destroy political opposition.

General Zia, the chief martial law administrator, first ordered an inquiry into the federal

security force last July. An investigative committee found that the force, set up to assist the civil administration and the police in cases of large-scale unlawful demonstrations or serious breaches of law and order, had been used contrary to its prescribed charter or duties as an instrument of oppression and political intimidation.

The committee further found that the image of the force had been irretrievably tarnished and therefore recommended its disbandment.

Most of the 25,000 members will be absorbed into other forces such as the police, but those with criminal convictions will be discharged.

## Third World Report

### Critical North-South balancing act

If the Third World's problems are to be solved, everyone must make an effort, Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor and chairman of the Social Democratic Party, says in a statement. Unless the imbalance between North and South is corrected "we shall go to the devil", he declares.

Herr Brandt announced on Tuesday the 16 members of an independent commission, of which he is chairman, set up to find ways to close the North-South gap. Extracts from his statement, the text of which was provided by the Labour & Trades Union Press Service, follow.

The struggle for greater equality of opportunity for the weak has never been, or at all events has long since ceased to be, a task or policy to be pursued by nations in isolation.

Personality, I am convinced that development policy has already assumed the proportions of a worldwide social question and that it will remain such for the remainder of this century.

Perhaps we Social Democrats can have a special part to play. Our attempt at getting a peace policy off the ground in one region, Europe, has taught us something of how coexistence between divergent economic orders and even political systems can be achieved.

My friends, I see our North-South policy as an element in the maintenance of peace, a third pillar in complementing the current attempt to harmonise better the conflicting interests of East and West and the efforts being made to achieve a balanced reduction of troops and weaponry in Europe and to limit the strategic arms of the two superpowers.

The matters on which the North and the South are at issue call for policies of harmonization and peace on a global scale, whose immediate goal must be to prevent a trial of strength and the consequent confrontation that would be inevitable, while pursuing possible negotiations that would fall short of a catastrophe; and whose guiding method would be that this prevention shall not require any state whether of North or South the abandonment of principles and convictions by which it plots its own course.

In pursuing world economic relations on a new footing, it is no use sitting down at the drawing board and thinking up a uniform, hybrid, global system which one then stupidly tries to impose on everyone.

What we have to do is set out the rules by which all partners can cooperate to the benefit of all; this means freedom from exploitation; it means as large a measure of justice as possible; and it means proceeding on the principle that at home and elsewhere we shall not be able to achieve it without being prepared to infringe against certain taboos and slaughter some sacred cows.

Just as a national society is a chess without rules, so an international society, towards which this society is evolving, is in its increasing interdependence inconceivable without rules. In other words without order in the widest sense. It will therefore be our responsibility to ensure on a global scale that the freedom of the individual, whether this individual be a person or a group or a national community, remains sufficiently great and sufficiently secure—or, indeed, can even be enjoyed for the first time.

Those who are able to make some contribution must, in addition, realize this: any state that seeks to free the solidarity of the membership as a whole will find it hard to obtain solidarity of the others. At all events, we simply cannot allow ourselves to accept the fact that hundreds of millions of people are living lives that are such only in a primitive biological sense.

I believe, therefore, that one of the chief responsibilities of the coming years will be to decide what are the criteria and the factors which will make it possible for the multitude of individuals in our world to begin living a life in dignity. And the manner in which this is achieved must be one which increasingly allows the states in which these people live to transform aid into effective self-help and to add economic independence to their political autonomy.

Just as we are convinced that the Socialist International with its member parties must, to a greater extent than it has hitherto been, become a forum for world-wide social democratic cooperation on development policy, so equally are we resolved to exert our influence

in such a way as to make Europe, over and above party frontiers, come increasingly to share in solidarity with the Third World.

This means that in the dialogue between the rich and the poor the Community will have to develop its present progressive stance, by which the situation of the developing countries is being improved, and that existing attempts by individual member countries to the Community to cooperate on development policy must be considerably intensified.

No one has a patent recipe for solving the problems separating North and South. There is general agreement among all those involved that the current international negotiations have not been a tremendous success, albeit there are definite signs of growing mutual understanding. This understanding has to be deepened.

To further this end, some have wondered whether, as a useful addition to the current international negotiations, an independent commission should not be created which, above and beyond the negotiations, could come forward with proposals for projects realisable in the medium term. After much thought and many conversations, I am now convinced that a commission of this kind can actually be of some assistance not only in matters of substance but also from the "atmospheric" point of view and I have, therefore, decided to accept the chairmanship that has been offered me.

It cannot be the task of such a body to act as a mediator between states, thereby relieving governments of their responsibilities. The job the commission has set itself for the next one and a half years is this: to follow up the large and varied number of broadly-based and adequately funded studies at present underway on a variety of particular problems, with a concentrated package of realistic suggestions spelling out in some detail how, existing circumstances taken into account, one can set about tackling as quickly and as effectively as possible, some of the most serious problems arising from the contradictions between North and South, between poor and rich.

We want, in addition, to work towards an atmosphere in which discussion can be business-like, emotionally relaxed and somewhat less ideological than hitherto.



A Vietnamese child walks ashore from the trawler.

## Australia refuses to send back refugees

From Our Correspondent  
Melbourne, Nov 30

Mr Andrew Peacock, the Australian Foreign Minister, today rejected the Vietnamese Government's demand for the return of 181 people on board the hijacked trawler, the *Be T*, which arrived in Darwin yesterday. He said that the hijacked refugees would not be turned away.

Most of the 151 refugees and 21 crew members have been taken to a Darwin quarantine station. Three Vietnamese military guards who were overpowered by the crew are still locked up on the trawler. About 80 of the refugees, who came ashore carrying possessions in large cane baskets, are children.

As they were being allowed ashore a senior official of the Vietnamese Embassy in Canberra went to the Department of Foreign Affairs to demand the return of the trawler and all those on board.

This is the first time the Australian Government has been involved in a diplomatic tug-of-war over South-East Asian refugees. Several hundred of whom have arrived here during the last few weeks, Mr Peacock said today that those who wished to return to Vietnam would be permitted to do so.

Spokesman for the Vietnamese Embassy described the seizure of the vessel as "an act of piracy". Foreign affairs officials were today trying to play down suggestions that a diplomatic incident could develop over the hijacked vessel. Mr Peacock has invited the Vietnamese Embassy's charge on Friday to discuss the matter.

## 'Patriotic Front must approve internal settlement'

### Black rule may not end Rhodesian war, Zambian leader says

From a Correspondent  
Lusaka, Nov 30

President Kaunda of Zambia says he would be prepared to support an internal settlement in Rhodesia if it met with the approval of the Patriotic Front and the African "front line" states.

In an interview Dr Kaunda added, however, that Zambia would support a guerrilla war against any black government in Rhodesia opposed by the Patriotic Front nationalist alliance.

"If we had reason to believe that this was a genuine black government, we would not (continue the war); if we had reason to believe it was not a genuine black government, we certainly would," he said.

"It's the Patriotic Front's decision, not ours."

Zambia is one of the five "front line" states surrounding Rhodesia (the others are Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique and Angola), and is used as a base by guerrillas of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu wing of the Patriotic Front.

Mr Nkomo, joint leader of the front with Mr Robert Mugabe, has rejected the plan of Mr Smith, the Rhodesian

Prime Minister, for an internal settlement not involving the front. He called the nationalist leaders who have agreed to discuss it "vultures feeding on the front's kill".

Dr Kaunda said, however, that he saw the possibility of an internal settlement as very remote.

For more than a month, Dr Kaunda has been publicly insisting that pre-independence elections, as specified by the Anglo-American settlement proposals, would result in a bloody civil war. Now, after great pressure from the other "front line" states, he is apparently willing to leave the door open to the possibility of such elections. But he still derides the concept.

"To bring out elections first and independence next is like putting the cart before the horse," he said. He criticised those who expect "the bitterness that has been going on for so long now" to disappear at the mere mention of the "magic-word" election.

"What is required is to give those unfortunate people time to reconcile. Once they have done that, a couple of years, three, four, then you would hold elections which would

bring out a true democratic society." It should be recognised, he added, that the Patriotic Front armed forces were led by a political unit and that political unit should be given an equal chance.

Earlier this week Mr Nkomo said he would not join a coalition with any of the nationalist groups now inside Rhodesia, but Dr Kaunda calls this "a public stand".

Despite the obituaries for the Anglo-American proposals being written by many of the participants in the talks, the Zambian leader believes the plan could form the basis for a final settlement, if the British are prepared to compromise.

A letter he had sent to the British Government last week contained an assurance that Zambia was not working against the proposals. But the future of the package was in the hands of the West.

"If we are not careful," he said, "even this one will go into the limbo where all other initiatives have gone."

Zambia would continue fighting for change in Rhodesia, even if Western opinion turned against the Patriotic Front.

## Muzorewa warning to Mr Smith on raids

From Our Correspondent  
Salisbury, Nov 30

A serious crisis has arisen threatening the internal settlement conference called by Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa has told Mr Smith that the recent raids into Mozambique in which 1,200 people were reported to have been killed had seriously and adversely prejudiced the proposed talks.

He sent this warning in a strongly-worded letter to Mr Smith on Tuesday, copies of which were released to journalists today.

The bishop, who leads the United African National Council, said he found the "mass-

acres not only highly upsetting but also abhorrent, shocking and tragic."

"You will know that the majority of guerrillas are only fighting for universal adult suffrage," the letter continued. "Indeed, we have publicly undertaken to be included as part of the mooted negotiations."

"We have demanded a climate conducive to negotiations. We have demanded a say of all executions of political prisoners. We have declared that those guerrillas fighting for universal adult suffrage may soon be able to come back home."

An explanation regarding the rationale behind the massacres was called for.

The bishop asked for an early response to his letter. Sources close to the bishop said unless he received a satisfactory reply from Mr Smith he might withdraw from the planned conference.

A spokesman from the Prime Minister's office said Mr Smith had received the bishop's letter. He would be replying but did not wish to make the contents public.

Meanwhile, in a calculated display of lack of realism within the security forces a thousand black and white troops marched through the streets of Bulawayo today

acres not only highly upsetting but also abhorrent, shocking and tragic."

"You will know that the majority of guerrillas are only fighting for universal adult suffrage," the letter continued. "Indeed, we have publicly undertaken to be included as part of the mooted negotiations."

"We have demanded a climate conducive to negotiations. We have demanded a say of all executions of political prisoners. We have declared that those guerrillas fighting for universal adult suffrage may soon be able to come back home."

An explanation regarding the rationale behind the massacres was called for.

The bishop asked for an early response to his letter. Sources close to the bishop said unless he received a satisfactory reply from Mr Smith he might withdraw from the planned conference.

A spokesman from the Prime Minister's office said Mr Smith had received the bishop's letter. He would be replying but did not wish to make the contents public.

Meanwhile, in a calculated display of lack of realism within the security forces a thousand black and white troops marched through the streets of Bulawayo today

## Police Telex referred to Biko injury

From Marcel Berlins  
Pretoria, Nov 30

A Telex message sent by the head of the security police in Port Elizabeth stated that an injury had been "inflicted" on Steve Biko, and gave a precise time, 7 am on September 7.

The Telex, quoted in evidence on the thirteenth day of the inquest into the Black Consciousness leader, was sent by Colonel Pieter Goosen to security headquarters in Pretoria.

Dated September 16, it also described Biko as being in a "semi-coma" on September 11, before being taken more than 700 miles in a Land Rover to the Pretoria prison hospital, where he died the following day.

The court has now finished hearing all the evidence of witnesses. It only remains for the four main counsel involved, representing Biko's family, the police, the prison doctors and the state, to make their final speeches.

Colonel Goosen, who had given evidence during the first week of the inquest, was recalled to be cross-examined about the Telex, which he had not mentioned at all in his main evidence. He said that he had thought then that the information had been conveyed telephonically.

He denied that there was anything significant in his having stated that an injury had been "inflicted" on Biko. The word, "inflicted" had been used to indicate to his head office that Biko possibly had

been injured during a scuffle with his interrogators in Port Elizabeth on September 7.

Mr Sydney Kentridge, counsel for Biko's family, pointed out that, while the Telex had described Biko as being in a semi-coma, Colonel Goosen had not admitted that fact either in his affidavit or in evidence.

Colonel Goosen said that he thought that aspect had come out clearly in evidence.

He agreed that in spite of Biko's appearance of being in a semi-coma, he still thought it possible that he was shamming.

Colonel Goosen said that he could not explain where Mr James Kruger, Minister of Justice and Police, had got the information which led him to make a press statement that Biko had threatened to go on a hunger strike. He had never heard Biko make any such threat.

Warrant Officer A. Fouché, one of the squad guarding Biko on the night of September 6-7, when it has been suggested that the injuries were sustained, said that he could throw no light on the subject.

He noticed the following evening, September 7, that Biko's lip was swollen and was told that he had been brought under control after having attacked security policemen during the day.

Warrant Officer Fouché was asked about the journey in the Land Rover, on which he accompanied Biko. He did not think Biko was "unduly ill". He did not think he was in semi-coma.

## Ethiopians to use Kenyan port

Nairobi, Nov 30.—Ethiopia, besieged by guerrillas in its Red Sea and South-eastern provinces, today received permission to use the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

The Government has been cut off from three of its vital sea links by guerrilla forces. Consignments arriving at Mombasa will be airlifted into Addis Ababa as the island roads are extremely rough and susceptible to guerrilla attacks.—Reuter.

## Dissident flies to America

Moscow, Nov 30.—Mr Pyotr Grigorenko, one of Moscow's leading dissidents, left today for a six-month visit to the United States. Mr Grigorenko, who is 70 and was a major-general until his demotion in the 1960s, is to have an operation and visit his son, who lives in New York.

His departure means that five of the original members of Moscow's dissident Helsinki monitoring group are now abroad.

## The double standards game (continued)

# THE STRANGE SILENCE OF DR. OWEN



Recently the South African government banned distribution in their country of the Right-wing publication "Did six million really die?" an attempt to whitewash the mass murder of Jews in Nazi Germany.

This odious piece of propaganda could have harmed relations between white communities in South Africa.

No reports of the banning appeared in the mass media of the world. No ambassadors were recalled "for consultation". No protesters appeared in Trafalgar Square with banners.

Yet, when the South African government banned publication of the newspaper "The World", which is white-owned and NOT the ONLY Black voice it is alleged to be, there was a moralistic outcry...

## ... so who presses the switches?

Racism, whether anti-white or anti-black is not acceptable in South Africa.

Any attempt to interfere with the truly

free press is to be deplored but let us avoid double standards.

## For instance...

Four editors have been arrested in the past month by the self-appointed military rulers of Pakistan. A fifth died of a brain haemorrhage shortly after the same army authorities closed his newspaper ("Times" report November 4th 1977).

The four seized were Mr. Syed Badruddin, editor of the Lahore edition of "Musawat" an Urdu language newspaper; Mr. Nazir Naji of the Urdu "Hayat"; Mr. Altaf Qureshi, editor of the monthly magazine Urdu Digest and Mr. Safar Lodhi, editor of the Rawalpindi "Hayat". The editor who died was Mr. Ibrahim Jalees of the Karachi edition of "Musawat".

Pakistan is a member of the Security Council but no motions of censure have been tabled. The Foreign Office has not protested. Why not Dr. Owen? ... Double standards again?

## CLUB OF TEN

Kent House, 87 Regent Street, London W1R7HF



























Ronald Butt

# Will the Lib-Lab pact give Mr Steel a social democratic future?

The Council of the Liberal Party has expressed its alarm at the way Mr Steel's Lib-Lab pact is working. It has decided to summon a special Liberal assembly in January to discuss the pact. The pact is a consequence of the failure of a substantial majority of Labour MPs to support it.

What is more, it was only by a narrow majority that the council defeated a motion to demand that the Lib-Lab pact be ended, or renegotiated here and now.

Despite this warning, it is unlikely that any number of Labour MPs that could rationally be described as "substantial" will support the desired regional list system, even though Mr Callaghan himself will personally guarantee in the direction of his pact with Mr Steel by doing so. The system likely to be adopted is first-past-the-post.

As such this will not be a resigning matter for Mr Steel. Nor will it make him renounce the pact. Indeed, the only thing that might impel him to resign would be if his party in its assembly then voted to end the pact which is now the backbone of his policy, and his parliamentary colleagues endorsed this decision. Mr Steel's determination to keep his party firmly locked into its present social democratic role is paramount.

Before looking at the implications of this, it is worth reminding the precise nature of the complaints about the pact since these are so substantial as to illuminate just how remarkable is Mr Steel's attachment to it, against every obstacle.

First, no piece of major policy-making (not even the Government's policy on small businesses) can genuinely be ascribed to Liberal influence. Most important, the Liberals have not got what they wanted on either devolution or proportional representation in Europe, and have had to stomach it.

Secondly, the moderation of the Labour Government is palpably the consequence of the lack of a Labour majority rather than the influence of the Liberals. In practice the role of the Liberals as Labour's "moderators" is simply to keep the Government in office with the hope of winning an absolute majority for much less moderate policies after the next election, after



which the Liberals can be discredited. Finally, the Liberals have to face the fact that, for all these reasons, they now appear to very many of their former voters as not, after all a genuine third force, but rather as an outcrop of Labour's social democratic wing.

In such a predicament, the Liberals may well seek to force Mr Steel to break the pact. In some ways, it would be a tactically convenient moment to do so. With the Scottish Nationalists still sustaining the Government over devolution, there would be no instant general election when Liberal "support" was withdrawn and, in theory at least, the Liberals might have an interval in which to reestablish themselves as an independent party, and one with policies other than the Lib-Lab pact.

But Mr Steel will defend the pact to the death, and a new Liberal leader will not be easy to find with three ex-leaders still on the Liberal bench. I suppose it is possible that Mr Grimmond, who wrote a scathing critical attack on the Lib-Lab pact in the Daily Mail this week, and implicitly (in a more subtle way) attacked Mr Steel's leadership as well, might be drafted.

But the odds are still that Mr Steel will be able to carry on with the pact, until the election which he and the

Liberals would fight "independently", but on the sort of terms which would enable the pact to be renewed afterwards if the Tories failed to win an overall majority.

What is significant is that Mr Steel is leading the Liberals towards what looks like a semi-permanent arrangement with Labour which has an uncanny resemblance to the role the German Liberals (the FDP) have in keeping in power the German Socialists (SPD)—the only difference being that the German Socialists are much less left-wing than the British. Of course there are differences. The FDP has, for instance, a record of participation in post-war German governments which it has enjoyed as a result of an electoral system that normally gives it over 30 seats. This governmental experience gives the FDP an aura of "real" politics the British Liberals lack. Nevertheless, what the FDP has failed to do with all its opportunities and advantages is highly instructive.

The FDP has an old though precarious history going back to the days of Imperial Germany. These however, and also during the subsequent Weimar period, the German Liberals were banded by disunity. Since the war, the FDP has claimed to represent a third force between the two major parties that predominate in

German politics—the Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) who are more or less conservative, and the Social Democrats (SPD) who are more or less Labour.

Yet it has been in practice almost impossible for the FDP to establish itself as a truly independent third force. With both the CDU/CSU and SPD accepting Germany as a social market economy—that is, a capitalist society tempered by various modifications of collectivism—the difference between the two major parties has become in many ways a matter of emphasis. What then is the role of an intermediate third group to be?

Even in the early post-war years, the FDP could never obtain the support of more than an average of about 10 per cent of the German electorate, despite the special advantages it obtained from the electoral system and from its appeal to those (mainly middle class) Germans who, while rejecting socialism, were reluctant to accept the CDU/CSU because of its confessionalist ties.

At first, the FDP were, quite naturally, the allies of Adenauer's Christian Democrats in government against the SPD with some Marxist tendencies: after all, both were "bourgeois" parties.

But two damaging defections from the FDP in the fifties changed this. In 1959, the German Socialists rejected the idea of

seeking to impose total socialism (even by evolution) and alone by revolution) in favour of a non-Marxist liberal-social democracy. When, therefore, the CDU/CSU became the largest single party in 1969, but without an overall majority, it became open to the German Liberals to decide which of the two big parties should form the government.

They put the Social Democrats in power by coalition with them, not only because the SPD had gone "respectable" but because the FDP itself had become much more left-wing during the brief period when it was the only opposition party during the grand (CDU/SPD) coalition in the sixties. Its more "conservative" (if you like, Aquinian) elements had been subordinated to its "social democratic" impulses, and the FDP had become a natural ally for the Social Democrats.

Since 1969, the German Liberals have kept the Social Democrats in power. Even though the CDU has been the largest single party in two elections out of the last three, it has been kept out of office—in 1976, by fewer than 10 per cent of the vote.

The FDP is a politically important party because the Social Democrats depend on it for power. But it is also a party which has largely lost its independence, and it is now hard to imagine (short of a

huge and improbable Marxist turn in the SPD) that it will turn back to the CDU. Essentially, it is an adjunct of the main left-wing party—which is what in practice Mr Steel wants the British Liberals to be.

Since the war, the FDP has never been able to stand alone and it has become increasingly hard to see what it stands for. The analogy with the Liberals can be taken further. When the FDP first made common cause with the Socialists, it promptly lost nearly half its voters to the CDU, which is what is happening to the British Liberals as a result of their pact. In 1969, the FDP's poll fell to 5.8 per cent of the total vote, and in 1976, it still commanded less than 8 per cent.

With all the advantages of experience in government, and a proportionate system which has generally given it over 30 seats, the FDP has never broken through to become a major party. Like the British Liberals, it consists of individuals at the apex, and an uncertain constituency in the electorate which has never become popular.

The Liberal Party's pretext that proportionate representation would enable it to build on some kind of popular liberal electorate in the country is pure fantasy, and the German experience is evidence of that. Such a popular constituency does not exist in the present political spectrum.

The modern breed of Liberals, British as well as Germans, are basically social democrats, and are the natural allies of the major party of the left as long as it eschews socialist extremes. That is what Mr Steel is: that is the role he wants for his party.

But there is another lesson to be learnt from Germany as well. Despite proportional representation, the Liberals there have not become a genuinely independent force: yet under our own much maligned system, the Labour Party replaced the old Liberals, and the Scottish Nationalists have become a genuine challenge.

The moral seems to be that the rise of a political party depends not on the electoral system but on whether it really has a constituency. It is a sufficiently large section of the electorate want to hear.

Hongkong  
Behind the distressing reports about corruption in Hongkong, the near-mutiny of the police force, and the colony's appalling difficulties over textile exports to the European Economic Community, there lies the need for a fundamental rethinking of the role of this colony vis-à-vis China and the rest of the world.

Until now, Hongkong has generally been seen as a problem of Sino-British relations. Two Foreign Office men are permanently on duty in the government secretariat here to look after any problems arising between Britain and China over Hongkong, or simply between Hongkong and China. Their role today is decidedly happier than it was 10 years ago, when leftist mobs were roaming the streets and murdering policemen.

But it is time Britain, the other western European powers and the United States began to take a less parochial view of Hongkong—and the same applies to those British civil servants and members of Parliament who think Britain has no valid role here at all.

Hongkong today is a financial centre almost equal in importance to Wall Street or the City of London. It has one of the world's biggest re-estate companies and shipping lines, and its economy is among the most buoyant in the world. Its currency is rivalled in stability and appreciation value only by a few others such as the Swiss franc and the Japanese yen.

Most important, Hongkong is China's biggest source of foreign exchange, though in visible trade it is surpassed by Japan. With China apparently on the verge of a Soviet line, and even talking publicly about buying the British Harrier jump-jet to defend itself against Soviet attack, Hongkong can no longer be seen as purely, or even mainly, an Anglo-Chinese problem.

The Chinese authorities have already given as clear assurances as they feel they need to that Hongkong will be allowed to remain under British rule beyond the expiry of the new territories lease in 1997.

Many a big British exporting and trading company will regard this as a splendid news, though to the British Government Hongkong is increasingly an embarrassment.

Events such as the riot by off-duty policemen outside the headquarters of the Independent Commission against Corruption last month, and the feeble measures since taken to punish the perpetrators, do Hongkong's image no good when its neighbours are striving round the table in Brussels and defending the colony's access to textile export quota in developed countries. But they should be seen in perspective.

David Bonavia



Riot police charge into communist rioters in Hongkong in 1967

## Our first defence need is better machinery for taking the big decisions

The main problem of defence is non-party. When Lord Carver says our defences are at rock bottom, there is a huge inference that all would be well if we voted Conservative. This is not so. The Conservatives would add most add 10 per cent to our defence capability.

This difference is dwarfed by the real problem: the growing cost of equipment, by which the price of a bomber today would have bought 100 bombers in the Second World War, even allowing for inflation. For warships, from frigates to carriers, the proportion is at least 10 to 1.

The problem is aggravated for Britain by two factors which we share only with the United States: volunteer forces, consuming half the budget, and an across-the-board capability, from H-bombs to rubber bullets.

This is why Britain, having largely withdrawn from NATO, is now withdrawing important elements from NATO. It is a very grave situation (for system to one is to blame, but it is going to require decisions and choices in the early future as a matter of urgency.

In spite of the high quality

of those involved, the record of the present system does not give reason to believe that it is adequate for this task. Few people are satisfied with it. Mr William Rodgers was being quite factual when he told the defence estimates sub-committee that the machinery for taking the big strategic decisions in the Ministry of Defence is "not very sophisticated".

Another former minister admits that basic decisions about the role of the Royal Navy simply never get taken, but are successively postponed; and as a minister he was as much to blame as anybody.

Hence the system lies to a large degree by default in the hands of the Chiefs of Staff. To give only the latest example from my experience, a former Defence Minister was recently asked whether he would restore the cuts in the Parachute Regiment, and replied that this was a problem he would leave to the Chiefs of Staff. His only job was to get money out of the Cabinet, he said.

This is surely bad practice, and certainly does not correspond to the theory of how British defence decisions are taken. The theory is that the

basic lines of defence policy are laid down by the Foreign Office, rather than by the people who have to execute it. The Foreign Office, though it has an excellent defence department, seldom sees the Defence White Paper in time to make substantial alterations. Thus the huge job of representing the taxpayer devolves wholly on the Centre at the Ministry of Defence, which does not seem adequately equipped to shoulder it.

The result is a defence policy in which (a) single-service projects tend to get priority; (b) vital inter-service functions, including amphibious capability and air-sea battle, are subordinated; (c) prestige weapons achieve disproportionate attention; (d) no new commitment, such as policies on all-weather, compactly ineffective; (e) Hence the system lacks the dimension of foresight; (f) Decisions are based on the lowest common denominator acceptable to all the Chiefs. Among the major blunders of the present system over the last decade have been the disposition of RAF planes in Germany, up till 1967, to render them vulnerable to exactly the

same type of attack which wiped out the Egyptian air force; the failure of the Royal Navy to acquire ship-to-shore missiles, on any effective scale, for ten years even after the sinking of the Bilat, during which time the Royal Navy could easily have made a naval base with Egypt; the obtuse attitude of the cavalry and others, for a whole decade, towards anti-tank guided weapons, seriously jeopardising BAOR.

There have been a stream of lesser mistakes, such as the failure to provide ships suitable for the cod war; equipment suitable to the Ulster situation for several years and the coastal defence ships which other North Sea nations now possess.

But these mistakes gravely hampered the lives of servicemen, and would probably have ensured the defeat of the three armed services respectively, by much smaller powers possessing only a fraction of Britain's defence resources.

The Centre must be strengthened. A concerted effort to do this was made by Mr Denis Healey 10 years ago. The programme evaluation group was an attempt to create an impartial body of experts to assess objectively the claims made by

the three services, particularly where they were in conflict with each other.

Not surprisingly it was disliked by the Chiefs of Staff, who regarded it as a threat to their autonomy. They succeeded in doing so largely because it did not have access to sufficient data to meet the service chiefs in specialized arguments. I understand that if it were revived now, it would stand a much better chance of success than it did then.

In any event, this defect needs to be repaired, in the context of the management review which Mr Roy Mason has been given a year ago. One way, advocated by the present Foreign Secretary in his book, *The Politics of Defence*, would be to build up the office of the Chief of Defence Staff, creating a well-staffed CDS committee, and to abolish the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Some experts believe that the machine is all right, but is not being used to its best advantage. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, accepts much of the above analysis.

He would argue for two reforms. First, the Defence

Council, or Defence Board—consisting mainly of the ministers, the four Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and the permanent under secretary—should behave like the board of a large company, and lay down the policy which subordinate boards would administer. At present it simply does not do this. But there is a prospect of action here, as under Mr Fred Mulley the Defence Council has at least met much more often than in the past.

Several previous measures to strengthen the Centre have been frustrated by the fact that Defence Policy Staff report to the Chiefs of Staff, who are able to savage objective thinking from the single-service viewpoint.

But in one way or another the interest of national defence, as opposed to that of the individual Services as viewed by the Chiefs of Staff, needs to be strengthened by building up the Centre. At present it is the Foreign Secretary, the Defence Secretary, the Chief of the Defence Staff, the FUS Defence and Parliament.

Hugh Hannan

The rich, aromatic, bittersweet chunks of Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade have made the British breakfast a matter of envy the world over. Ever since Mrs. Cooper filled the first jars in 1874, the men of Oxford have spread its fame in the tropics, the New World as far as the Antarctic and Everest itself.

FRANK COOPER

makes the marmalade that makes the British breakfast



### The centre of Ulster is now in London

Communing has never been my favourite pastime and it was, therefore, with awe that I learnt yesterday that Don Concanon, the Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, had just made his 47th flight between Belfast and London.

Mr Concanon was, admittedly, several hours late for the opening of the Ulster Trade Centre in London, but he made it. His aircraft was tied up and British Airways in Belfast refused to lead their quick-decision machine so that the minister, and lots of other important people, had to fly BA scheduled flights instead.

This Christmas will be Mr Concanon's fourth in Ulster, which makes him by far the longest serving minister in the Northern Ireland team. He thrives on the hard work and travel and told me that he hoped the Centre would be of real benefit to the Province and to the people who do business with it.

The Centre has been set up as a boost to Northern Ireland exports. It is a trade centre and not just an exhibition hall. Situated in Berkeley Street, with a display window full of seasonal Christmas toys handmade in the Province, it should, according to Barry Oliver, the



director of the Ulster Office, be of great help to busy buyers from abroad. My favourite item on display? Inevitably, Old Bushmills whisky.

Americans seem to be taking the energy crisis seriously. The Heater Corporation of Providence, Rhode Island, is importing Irish Peat to burn in your fireplace or stove. A 15lb carton costs about £10 plus sales tax.

### THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

#### Music makers come into brass

I do not expect Bernard Levin to agree with me, but Wagner could be an impossible man. What else would you expect of a musical instrument that had not been invented.

He wanted some special tubas for the first performance of *Das Rheingold* in 1969 and of course he got them. They were even named after him.

That was only the start of the trouble. Once the military band-tube Wagner tubas came into being, only a handful of composers—Strauss, (Richard), Bruckner and Stravinsky among them—wrote parts for it.

Some British orchestras are lucky. Wagner tubas are part of their equipment—even though they are rarely needed and rapidly deteriorate in idleness. The London Symphony and the City of Birmingham have always had to hire theirs.

#### Angry French trolley song

People who have been complaining about a noisy, flooded Britain can take comfort from the fact that we are taking our revenge on Calais.

The coachloads of weekend shoppers joining the pre-Christmas rush to the French coastal hypermarkets are rapidly forcing the French hypermarkets to abandon hope of managing any shopping on Saturdays. They commandeer all the available shopping trolleys and then

block the aisles alongside the display of table wines while they argue interminably about customs allowances and how many bottles make two litres.

Even if the French can beg, borrow or steal a trolley, they cannot get past "I am sorry to say it", commented one hypermarket manager in the first stages of xenophobia, "but the British shoppers are at least ten times more trouble than the yare worth".

#### Double (Dutch) entendre

Dutch, as a school friend of mine once explained, is the most difficult language. I was only marginally surprised, therefore, when the said friend, Albert Teixeira de Mattos (who is now general manager of James, Lang, Wootton & Co.) told me to explain the double Dutch that appeared on the dust cover of *I Was a Stranger*, by General Sir John Hackett (which came out last month).

The cover picture shows Sir John, as a young officer in the war, wearing a badge with the letters "SE". This (in Dutch) stood for "Slecht Hoorend" which means "hard of hearing" and provided wearers with an alibi for not responding to questions (and therefore) not giving away their English accents.

The dust cover notes explain

that the letters stood for "slecht" (which is not a Dutch word) "hoorend" (which is and means "frequenting whores"). Mr Teixeira de Mattos comes from Oostende (near enough to Arrahm) where many of the Allied troops looted and made their famous stand during the Battle of Arrahm. He therefore finds the mistake doubly silly. Chatter and Windus, the publishers, tell me that the error will be corrected in the reprint.

The latest recruit to the National Freedom of Information campaign, pledged to restore the "citizens' right to know", is Bill Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades. It was "in the public interest" two days ago that the Appeal Court—against Sogam's wishes—ruled that the Daily Express could print extra copies during the Daily Mirror dispute.

The latest examples of polymathy to reach my ever-receptive ears all happen to be musical. Gavin Henderson, genial general manager of the Philharmonia who spends much time blowing his orchestra's trumpet, will blow his own for a change at a performance of Handel's Messiah by Saint Mary's Music Society at St Mary's Brynmor Square W1 on December 10. He will play first trumpet—the very least one could expect from a man of such musical virtuosity. As for the Right Rev Michael Marshall, Bishop Suffragan of Woolwich, he will preside at the ivory when he tackles a Mozart piano concerto in a gala concert, in aid of Crisis at Christmas, at the Plasterers Hall on Friday. Another celebrated polymath, will conduct: Edward Heath.





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## A MESSAGE HALF HEARD

There has never been any shortage of prophets and preachers asserting that mankind is moving in the wrong direction, that the pursuit of wealth does not necessarily bring happiness, that a re-awakening of moral and spiritual perception is necessary if disaster is to be avoided. From time to time one of these prophets evoked a response which tells as much about the time in which he lives as about the message he brings. Dr Fritz Schumacher, for whom a memorial service was held yesterday in Westminster Cathedral, was such a one. What he preached, as he himself said, derived mainly from the traditional wisdom of mankind, which has always been respected and not ignored. He quoted the son on the Mount, the teachings of Buddha, and the reminder of R. H. Tawney that "unless industry is to be paralysed by recurrent evolutions on the part of outraged human nature it must satisfy criteria which are not purely economic". But he managed to relate his message to very contemporary doubts and fears about the world today. He was a preacher with long experience in the world of economics and industry, and he brought to the spiritual and the practical in a way that set up reverberations beyond his immediate circle of admirers.

To appreciate him as a significant contemporary figure does not necessarily mean agreeing with everything he said. To some extent he encapsulated wisdom that was being conventionalised anyway; to some extent he hoped for changes in society which at present lie beyond realism. Nevertheless, he contributed a real deal. He wrote his book *Small is Beautiful* at a moment when advanced industrial societies were entering a period of extreme self-doubt about their own viability and the validity as a model for developing countries. Hopes of overcoming poverty, crime, unemployment and

through continuous economic growth have been disappointed. The fact that more people are living longer and more secure lives than at any time in history has come to seem less important than the fact that the beneficiaries of industrial development seem less happy and fulfilled than they were expected to be while the majority of the world's population is excluded even from the benefits that are available. Work for many people is still degrading drudgery; leisure is not necessarily the most satisfying aim in life; above all, the scale of things—especially of industrial, political and bureaucratic structures—is felt to be overpowering the individual.

Dr Schumacher did not advocate smallness as the answer to everything. The title of his book has misled many people. What he was talking about was the appropriate size for different structures—some large, some small. He concentrated on smallness, he said, only to contrast the idolatry of giantism. Were there an idolatry of smallness he would have exerted his influence in the other direction. "The fundamental problem is to achieve smallness within large organizations," he wrote. People can be themselves only in small comprehensible groups. It was not, therefore, the abandonment of economic growth or the escape to the pastoral simplicity of the commune that he was advocating, but a spiritual "homecoming" that would bring a qualitative measure to bear on the idea of growth. Modern technology, he felt, was pursuing size, speed and violence in defiance of all laws of natural harmony.

His disapproval was fundamentally moral but it contributed to thinking in several very practical and important areas. His ideas on size have become part of the common currency of discussion on a range of issues from housing through industry to devolution and the European Community. His warnings that natural resources are limited and need to be conserved have almost dissolved into conventional wisdom. Above all, his

ideas on the value of intermediate technology for developing countries are now those of the World Bank, the Indian Government, and many others. He was not the only person but he was among the first to see the dangers and the absurdities of trying to drive developing countries straight into massive urban industrialization. As founder of the Intermediate Technology Development Group and adviser to many governments his work in this field has already had wide and lasting results.

The main question that remains over his work is how far it offers practical as well as spiritual guidance for developed societies. That his basic message is relevant needs no more proof than the growing number of people who show interest in it, from President Carter downwards. The problem is that many of the steps that would be necessary to turn it into practical policies are not easily compatible with democracy and a free economy. As President Carter is already finding, it is very difficult to make people conserve energy when there is in fact no shortage. By the time the shortage arrives the market will raise prices to the point where conservation becomes an economic necessity.

Dr Schumacher will then be vindicated to the extent that it will probably prove possible to make much larger savings in the use of energy than most people now realize is possible. Sweden's success in increasing energy productivity already points the way, and suggests, as Dr Schumacher would have agreed, that crisis can still be avoided. Waiting for market forces means, of course, that the adjustment will be more rapid and uncomfortable than if his exhortations could influence behaviour now, but his emotional disposition may have been too resistant to modern trends, too pre-industrial, for him to have the practical effect in the developed countries that he has had in those countries still able to try other roads to development.

## Interim devolution for Ulster

From Dr David Morrison

Sir, Your editorial of November 21 discusses the concept of "interim devolution" for Northern Ireland and Roy Mason has since laid down principles on which the concept should be based.

One of these principles, as the "interim devolution" implies, is that "the arrangement should be temporary and should envisage progress towards full legislative devolution". To establish political institutions which are from the outset understood to be temporary is a doubtful constitutional principle. To do so at this time in Northern Ireland when a nationalist/unionist war is still in progress is the height of political folly. What Northern Ireland needs at this time are settled political institutions so that the hopes of nationalists (including the Provisional IRA) and the fears of unionists are extinguished. To establish "interim" institutions and leave open the possibility of movement in a nationalist or a unionist direction can only preserve the constitutional conflict in Ulster and, in all probability, prolong the war.

Your editorial refers to the possibility of "interim devolution" being "fashioned to fill the 'gap' left by the withdrawal of the British Government and its army and its police". It is a pity that it is not possible to fill this gap with a more realistic and more realistic arrangement. Roy Mason has since ruled this out on the grounds that it would amount to "integration" and would therefore be unacceptable to Catholics. It is widely recognized that the present "direct rule" arrangements are generally acceptable to both communities and it is hard to see how a more realistic arrangement of local government would render them any less acceptable.

The establishment of a regional authority has been portrayed as a backward step towards the 1968 local government arrangements

which provided the trigger for the Civil Rights Movement. Such a comparison is utterly false. For the Catholic community in Northern Ireland there is one crucial difference above all others: in 1968 the Stormont Government, elected and by convention local government matters, which were devolved to that Parliament, could not be raised in the Westminster Parliament. By contrast if a regional authority were set up today, it would operate under the continuing scrutiny of the Westminster Parliament.

It is important to realize that the Civil Rights Movement did not get off the ground in 1968 on the basis of anti-British sentiment but out of a general sense of grievance on the part of Catholics against Protestant majority rule in Northern Ireland.

That figure was Gerry Fitt, now the leader of the SDLP. Likewise, today, there is every reason to believe that if Northern Ireland had "British Standards" in central and local government institutions the Catholic community would be generally happy with them.

A regional authority could and should be established without delay. Given that it would have clearly defined and necessary functions to perform, it is much more likely to lead to practical cooperation between Protestants and Catholics than an elaborate parliamentary institution, especially one that from the outset is described as interim.

Yours, etc., DAVID MORRISON, Belfast, 15 November 26.

## Government pay policy

From Dr Harold Booth

Sir, Surely Mr Callaghan cannot be surprised at the discontent, even the anger, over the Government's "policy" which restricts the public sector to 10 per cent whilst allowing groups in the private sector to exceed 10 per cent. It is common knowledge that during phases one and two, many groups in the private sector were able to maintain or improve their living standards by devices such as free health insurance, job regrading, improved allowances, increased overtime payments, etc. Now we have the self-financing "policy" to deal with which (as indicated in a recent "Tonight" programme) are bogus, and which again favour the private sector. As a university teacher, I would have been willing not only to defer the cost of my own living standards but also to accept a 10 per cent increase for 1977/78. If this had been a statutory limit set by a firm government, and in spite of TUC opposition, the present "policy" is clearly unjust; it is a policy which, if it is to be applied to the public sector, it is an injustice upon injustice.

Yours sincerely, HAROLD BOOTH, 8 Reigate Drive, Attenborough, Nottingham.

From Professor H. J. Perry

Sir, Why does the present Government's policy of its predecessor since the War, persist in perpetuating the myth that it is operating an incomes policy? With the possible exception of Audrey Jones's short-lived but notably successful "Practical Income" Budget of 1967-70, we have never had an incomes policy. What we have had is a series of incomes limitation policies—"guiding lights", "green lights", "fixed percentages" or "fixed amounts" for the year, which have been replaced by "guidelines" or "guidelines for absolute maxima in pay increases."

There has been, with the one exception of the PIS, no attempt at a real incomes policy, let alone one which would try to determine the needs of each class, what each occupation was worth to the community, and to persuade the workers in that group and the rest of the public to accept that valuation. The policy of an incomes limitation policy is a true incomes policy is that

(1) it is an injustice to those groups which were ill-treated or cut off in mid-occupation in the last round of pay settlements, or whose position has since been unfairly squeezed by inflation and the arbitrary operation of cash limits (I make no mention of university teachers but of the firemen, the toolmakers and other skilled or responsible workers

whose differentials have been eroded);

(2) it is a standing provocation to those groups with industrial muscle and especially those with the power to use their muscle to break through the limit;

(3) it gives a stick to the irresponsible millionaires within each union or professional body with which to beat the more long-suffering, responsible and business-minded;

(4) it instantly turns the maximum into a minimum, and every group which feels itself aggrieved; and, above all,

(5) it is a self-lightening noose round the Government's own neck which (unless it can pass it off as a phoney "productivity deal" or similar hypocrisy) forces it to admit defeat whenever any group "breaks the pay policy".

If the present (or any other) Government were to adopt a proper, flexible incomes policy which allowed it to do justice to the fireman and other workers, who were fairly well respected both the greater folly of an incomes "free for all" and the blackmail of groups like the power workers whose threats have been decisively rejected by the public, it would not be a disaster for the country's prospects but, much more important, save the country from the self-destructive social conflict over relative pay which now threatens our precarious economic recovery.

Yours faithfully, HAROLD PERKIN, Bowditch, Caxton, Lancashire.

## Servicemen's pay

From Mr George Burnett

Sir, Whilst acknowledging the eloquence of Lord Callaghan's article in your paper on Monday November 28, may I bring the discussion of our servicemen's pay down to more realistic levels?

Soldiers, sailors and airmen are children of us all, irrespective of class, trade or regional affiliation. They are keepers of our conscience in these and in the present circumstances—preservers of our homes throughout these British Isles. As such, they regularly hazard their very lives. We reward them with less than civilian counterparts who expect to receive under favourable circumstances, from Social Security payments.

Let us agree that the proper remuneration of the serviceman should be based on the same considerations as that of other deserving sections of the community, whose hostages to fortune can never be so great. Yours faithfully, G. BURNETT, 22 South Audley Street, W1.

## Releasing spy documents

From Dr Callum MacDonald

Sir, The reluctance of successive British governments to admit the existence of clandestine activities has long been an obstruction to historians and to the public. The release of the Thirty Year Rule covering the release of official papers. While the discovery of material outlining Secret Intelligence Service activities in the twenties may be "embarrassing", historians have long assumed that the British Government engaged in such activities as espionage and counter-espionage, diplomatic and other activities. Far more serious, however, is the fact that the SIS, which comes under the direct control of the Prime Minister, has sometimes been used to make policy behind the backs of Parliament and the Cabinet, an activity which can hardly be described as "innocuous".

It is quite clear that Neville Chamberlain, for example, used the SIS to investigate the possibility of a compromise peace with Germany in October/November, 1939, an operation which was couched from the majority of his colleagues, including Churchill. It was only because the affair ended dramatically with the kidnapping of two British agents from Holland that this episode became known at all and the files on the Venlo Incident at the Public Record Office remain closed until 2015. Like many others, I have had to rely on the inefficiency of the official "weebers", most notably in the Halifax and Chamberlain papers, to piece together an account of this episode.

If the British Government prefers to maintain "the official fiction" that no clandestine espionage agencies exist in peacetime, therefore, it may well be partly because successive Prime Ministers have found the SIS too useful both as a vehicle for personal diplomacy and as a source of information under their direct control, to have the full record of its activities released. It goes without saying that such a situation would not be tolerated for an instant in the United States. Parliament must not allow itself to be diverted by the reassurances of Gornow Roberts but should instead demand full application of the 30-year rule to the records of the SIS.

Yours faithfully, CALLUM A. MACDONALD, Joint School of Comparative American Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry, Warwickshire, November 26.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Modernization of the Lord's Prayer

From the Bishop of Durham

Sir, I do not mind being criticized for something I have actually done, but I am afraid I cannot remain silent in the face of the mixture of ignorance and misunderstanding displayed by your Special Correspondent in the issue of November 26.

Since 1972, when the Church of England authorized the first of its Series 3 alternative services, these have contained a single version of the Lord's Prayer in modern language, though it has been, and remains, permissible for the traditional version to be used if preferred. The request has recently been made that when these services are incorporated into the Alternative Service Book in 1980, both versions of the prayer should be printed within the Series 3 sections of the book.

As Chairman of the working party responsible for the publication of the book, it was my duty to test the opinion of the Synod on this point, which I did in the name of the standing committee by proposing a formal motion. The effect of this motion was to maintain the status quo, but it provided an opportunity, which would not otherwise have existed, for those who felt that both versions should be printed to put forward their case.

I spoke neither for nor against the motion, and concentrated entirely on explaining its significance. What I said was fully reported in the Church press, and could easily have been discovered by your correspondent if he had bothered to check it in the course of the debate I explicitly welcomed an amendment which, while preserving the principle that only one version should be printed, would have left open the question whether this should be the old or new version until a later debate; this was heavily defeated, and the Synod, without any prompting, voted on the original motion in favour of the status quo.

These are the facts. If Mr Higham wishes to use them as an excuse for a personal attack on myself and a general sneer at the episcopate, I submit that he is doing his duty more about himself than about the bishops. Of course I am aware of the strong emotions aroused by the whole subject of liturgical revision, but the undeniable truth is that the overwhelming preference of the Church's elected representatives is in favour of it. I can, however, offer Mr Higham a crumb of comfort. If he cares to visit Durham Cathedral he will find there a traditional library in all its glory. Yours faithfully, JOHN DUNELM, Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, November 28.

From Mr Martin H. Prescott

Sir, May an Anglican Reader of your reading take issue with Mr Higham over the modernization of the Lord's Prayer. Like many another of my generation, brought up in the love of the incomparable English of the Book of Common Prayer, I found the new version unfamiliar at first, and therefore alien. Now, after some years of use at the Series 3 Communion service, the form of

expanding their foreign operations faster than their domestic ones even in the present incomplete regime of control. This tendency would certainly increase if that control were removed. It would refer Mr Phillips to the careful study of Mr Correll Barnett, *The Collapse of British Power*, about the history of the process which weakened this country.

It is significant that economic expansion was at its lowest level when capital export was at its height. Britain experienced economic progress comparable to that of our competitors only in periods of protection (safeguarding and McKenna duties and Ottawa). The lesson is there to be learnt.

Yours, etc., THOMAS BALOGH, Balliol College, Oxford, November 29.

## A free currency

From Lord Belagh

Sir, It is certainly very fitting that Mr Phillips (letter, November 28), as a devotee of the free market, should consider it a "cause for shame rather than satisfaction that, alone of the world's leading industrial countries, we have been denied the prestige and benefits of a free currency for the past 38 years". That does not mean, however, that the freedom to export capital is in the national interest. I have given (letter, November 28) a detailed answer to those who believe it to be contrary to those interests. He has answered none of them.

The export of capital did not lift exports from this country's rate achieved by Germany or the US in 1914 or between 1925-30. As to the propensity to export capital, the fact is that our large companies are

## European elections

From Mr Christopher Mayhew

Sir, As David Wood says (*The Times*, November 28), with the regional list system a candidate who got the fewest votes could win a seat. But then—much less improbably—with the first past the post system a party which won the most votes could win no seats at all. No electoral system is proof against absurd results in absurd circumstances. Uniquely, however, the first past the post system produces absurd results in normal circumstances. Yours, etc., CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW, 39 Wood Road, Wimbledon, SW20, November 28.

From Mr Brian Jones

Sir, In his article of November 28 David Wood completely misses the point. He writes: "They (the Liberals) do not stop to ask whether 13 Liberals should democratically have more sway than any other organized or unorganized group of 50 or 100 Labour MPs." Democratically speaking for "13 Liberals" reads "five to six million Liberal voters", and then ask the question.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN JONES, 59 West Street, Reigate, Surrey.

From Mr Bob Hughes

Sir, In his article on the European Assembly Elections Bill (November 28), David Wood is right to point out that some Conservative MPs are trying to face both ways. Many of us in the Conservative Party believe that it is time for principle to be put before party advantage.

To achieve this, the Young Conservatives have been urging our Members of Parliament to:—  
I vote for a guillotine motion on debate, as this is the only way that the Bill has any chance to be passed in time to allow the elections to take place next year.

words has become much more acceptable; in fact the first eight lines would seem wholly admirable. It is difficult to see how one can really prefer "Our Father which art (Whistler!) in heaven", or even "who art in heaven", to "Our Father in heaven"; or lament the substitution of "sins" for "trespasses", either as regards sense or euphony. "Trespasses" these days relates to private property; while the collective sibilance of a large congregation is hideous in the extreme.

Nevertheless the remainder of the modern version is less happy. "Do not bring us to the time of trial" may be better than "Lead us not into temptation"—the Cockney's "Thames" (Police) "Station"; but it still is not right. Furthermore the inversion to "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours" is patently "change for the sake of change", and far from being an improvement it may be permitted to extend this criticism to the rest of the Series 3 service; there are a number of examples of unnecessarily clumsy and indeed, ugly English, like "And also with you". The worst example, however, is "All things come from you, and of your own do we give you". The latter clause is scarcely English at all. Am I alone finding it painful to have to address the Almighty in this travesty of the language? And yet the authors of Series 3 have composed the lovely prayer for the end of the service, "The Credo", which is a beautiful and, I think, give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Does this not show, Sir, that the spirit of Cranmer is in danger of being lost? Is it possible to write good modern liturgical English? Yours faithfully, MARTIN PRESCOTT, Chestnut, 53 Pinehill Road, Crowborough, Berkshire, November 29.

From Mr B. W. Robinson

Sir, May I congratulate you on the publication today of the excellent article under the heading "Against the Modernization of the Lord's Prayer". It is heartening to hear such an able and authoritative voice raised against the progressive vulgarisation of our Liturgy. The objection to "Series 3" and other progressive changes, that they substitute something pedestrian and second-rate for something uplifting and sublime. We sometimes put Shakespeare in modern dress, but so far as I am aware, we have not yet presumed to rewrite his text in O-level English. Cranmer was just as good at his job as Shakespeare was at his, and deserves the same respect.

Beauty, whether of music, or ritual, or language, is one of God's most precious gifts to us, which we should offer back to Him in our worship. To reject it, to debase it, or to replace it with something inferior is a kind of blasphemy, and puts in mind of Daniel's prophecy of the Abomination that maketh desolate set up". I am, etc., B. W. ROBINSON, 41, Redcliffe Gardens, SW10.

## MR FRASER'S MISCALCULATED ELECTION

Mr Fraser has not yet lost the feral election so confidently predicted five weeks ago, and Mr Gigh Whitlam has not yet won eleven though yesterday he chided as though he had. Certainly Mr Fraser has seen in the last by-elections and opinion polls his party's majorities soak up like storm water in a billabong. As nobody expected such a "no" even Mr Whitlam thought at first: Mr Fraser was pulling a fast one over him. Australia's politicians, political pundits and pollsters alike blame upon the extraordinary "volatility" of the electorate. This alleged volatility has been needed, with a comparable disavowal, in other democracies. Politicians seem to feel that they have somehow been double-crossed when voters suddenly desert the trend shown in opinion polls when no election impends.

They should think again. There is no mystery. Professor Elton Mo, the industrial psychologist, established that when an experiment on human beings is carried out the results—particularly if human beings know they are being experimented with. A general election, and particularly a premature general election, is very definitely into that category of experiment. An election called to capitalize on a advantage, or unashamedly to present a less propitious time for reappeal for another period of office is a very risky experiment indeed when press and media

disclose to the public why they are being pulled out to vote—compulsorily so in Australia. Mr Fraser has thus made himself look at once greedy and unconfident of his policy's efficacy. The Australian poll that he did not study was the recent one in which 65 per cent of the sample said that they had too many state and federal elections.

The swing against Mr Fraser is perhaps too large for this understandable reaction to account for all of it. His policy has not yet reduced unemployment, restored business confidence, pulled down inflation, or stopped strikes, to the extent which he promised in 1975. These are important factors. Nevertheless the sudden rise of the new alternative party, the Australian Democrats, led by a former discredited Liberal minister Mr D. Chipp, reinforces the argument that the electorate is angry with him without believing Mr Whitlam is much better. For Mr Chipp seems to have no clear alternative policy. His party is simply an alternative to the eternal and increasingly boring choice between a big business party and a big unions party, perpetually lambasting each other with the same slogans yet in office often carrying out similar policies and getting involved in not dissimilar scandals. Mr Whitlam promises for example to stop uranium exports, but the conservatives will find reasons for making such sales if the interests of revenue and jobs dictate, should he get in.

The swing to Labour, which approaches the 64 per cent which

would give a majority in the Lower House (but not in the Senate) to Mr Whitlam, seems less significant in terms of Australian politics than the surprising percentages of 11 to 18 per cent notched up in the recent by-elections and in the Queensland state elections by Mr Chipp's unspecified but undoubtedly alternative offer. His candidates' preferences may decide the result which seems likely to be narrow; his party might even win a seat or two.

It may be argued that it would be better for Australians to stick to Mr Fraser's more cautious economic and monetary policies, even if their author perceives that they will take more time than he reckoned, and a world upswing as well to work. But on the evidence the voters see little real choice especially now that Mr Fraser has a ministerial resignation to explain away almost as much as Mr Whitlam had in his time. The voters' disgust should worry Australian politicians, even in the midst of their enjoyable slanging matches: it bodes them all no good. And not only Australian politicians. The so-called volatility of electorates is not unreasonable but the opposite: it is a judgment by thinking men and women endowed with intellect and with free will, upon the failures and unacceptable behaviour of those in office. Among those failures are not only mismanagement of public affairs, or miscalculations which are nobody's fault, but the arrogance of taking ordinary people for granted.

## A European 'Brookings'

From Dr Frank A. Heller

Sir, I would support Mr Nind's reservations about a European or indeed a British "Brookings" (letter, November 25) and could cite other examples, many from my long association with South America, to show that institutions are not easily imported from overseas. However, this should not be used as an excuse to do nothing.

The case for a British or European centre for high level policy studies should be carefully and sympathetically considered. What is wrong with the current debate is largely due to the unfortunate use of the term "Brookings" which might lead us to concentrate exclusively on economic and political science on the American pattern.

When Professor Dehrendorf started his initiative he spoke of the need to diagnose the British malaise, and even eminent economists like Professor Caves of Harvard, political analysts like Servan Schreiber or multi-disciplinary inquirers like the notorious Hudson Report have told us clearly that our problems are social and even psychological as much as economic or political. We must therefore strive to get rid of the narrow "Brookings" image and accept that a wide range of social science disciplines should be brought to bear on policy studies.

Yours truly, FRANK A. HELLER, Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, Belsize Lane, NW3, November 23.

## Seeguarding the otter

From Mr J. J. Linn

Sir, I was interested to read the article in your issue of November 23, concerning the Government's proposal to make an order protecting otters. My colleagues and I here at Exeter have been studying otters and otters for many years, and myself to no one in our respect as admiration for the otter as one of Britain's most splendid wild creatures. Further, we would wholeheartedly support any measure which we felt would lead to a general increase in the number of otters, and to their return to areas where they have become very rare indeed.

I, personally, have grave doubts about the wisdom of placing the otter under legal protection at this time, and I believe that the arguments of those such as Lord Cumberlege, who oppose this move should be listened to carefully, and dismissed out of hand.

My doubts centre around the fact that "protection" of a species, as this stands at present, means, effectively, "preventing the killing of that species, and this is simply not the kind of protection which the otter needs. There is no evidence of substance that, over the country as a whole, the killing of otters occurs on a sufficient scale to make the slightest difference to the total numbers. I would contend that in a rather large area of England, centred around the Midlands, the otter is scarce enough to merit the term "endangered", and protection of the otter which this limited region would be entirely reasonable.

Over the rest of Britain, however, the otter is not yet endangered, and it is, in fact, by preventing the killing of otters, the Government

may engender a feeling that all that is necessary has been done, and that the otter is now safe. This is simply not so. What the order needs, if it is to be anything like the previous numbers, is good clean water, plenty of secluded riverine and lake-side habitat, and the peace and quiet to enjoy them.

To provide that would involve society in paying a high price. The activities of many people and organizations (farmers, anglers, boaters, water authorities, hunters, industrial and domestic polluters, to name but a few) would have to be firmly curtailed. Is society prepared to pay that price? That is the real question which the Government must face up to.

It may be argued that protecting the otter may do a little good, and will do no real harm. I do not agree. The good is minimal; the harm is real. As well as creating an unwarranted sense of euphoria about the future of the otter, the placing of this species on the protected list will bring that list into disrepute. The species at present protected really are endangered; the otter is not on the whole.

What is now needed is the means to provide limited protection for the otter within those areas where it really is endangered, and legislation to control the use of our bodies of fresh water so that the otter gets a fair crack of the whip, and to ensure that the so-called "endangered" species are not taken automatic precedence. I trust that these points will be borne in mind when the matter is debated in Parliament.

I. J. LINN, University of Exeter, Department of Biological Sciences, Prince of Wales Road, Exeter.

## Sculptured elms

From Mrs Jane Blensdorf

Sir, I would like to join this correspondence in order to encourage sculptors and woodworkers to explore the possibilities of using the now plentiful elm trunks.

My late husband, the sculptor Ernst Blensdorf, worked for 36 years using elm as his main material, and was not deterred by the presence of Dutch elm disease, which lies only under the bark. He worked the wood fresh and unseasoned, countering any tendency to crack, by drilling a hole right through the core of the trunk. All his sculpture was protected from insect attack by a few applications of a recognized woodworm dressing, when the work was finished. The result of this treatment is that all his pieces have survived without any rotting or cracking. Yours faithfully, JANE BLENSODRF, Gladen, Giron, Somerset.











## Builders see no backing for 'dock labour' plan

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Building employers are cautiously optimistic that they have blocked trade union efforts to introduce a "dock labour" scheme of workmen's registration and fall-back pay. The Construction Industry Manpower Board (CIMB), set up two years ago to advise the government on employment, is expected on December 12 to agree an interim report recommending voluntary registration of employers. The report is expected to be left to the two sides of the industry to decide.

Building industry unions, backed by the TUC Construction Committee, have long argued the need for decasualisation of the industry under a statutory register of both employers and employees, to be implemented by a Manpower Board and with sanctions against companies refusing to participate will almost certainly be left to the two sides of the industry to decide.

The employers have fought this proposal on the grounds that a statutory register would be an inflexible interference in the industry's manpower practices and harmful to commercial success.

It now seems almost certain that the CIMB will recommend to Mr. Freeman, Minister for Housing and Construction, that three voluntary registers of employers should be set up covering building, civil engineering and specialist sub-contractors. The criteria for registration, and any question of sanctions, will be left for the industry's collective bargaining machinery if the employers have their way.

The CIMB is working to terms of reference laid down by the Government "to advise the Secretary of State for the Environment on the desirability of statutory or other measures to increase the stability of employment in the construction industry and, in particular, the desirability of establishing a statutory authority to implement measures for that purpose which could also include a register of employers and employees".

In the face of strenuous delaying tactics by the employers, the unions have gradually dropped their insistence on statutory registration and in return the employers are willing to accept some form of voluntary registration.

But they are still deeply divided over the question of sanctions and may in the end reject the kind of enforcement provisions that the unions are vital to the success of the scheme.

## Population decline in big UK cities

By Caroline Atkinson

Fewer people now live and work in densely populated areas. The dispersal of population and jobs from crowded urban areas since the beginning of the 1960s is noted in a report prepared by the Department of Employment's Unit for Manpower Studies.

Between 1961 and 1974 the population in Britain's seven major conurbation areas has declined by 6.8 per cent. Meanwhile the rest of Britain has grown by 13.4 per cent.

Resident labour forces have also declined in the seven conurbations of Greater London, Central Clydeside, Merseyside, South East Lancashire, Tyne-side, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

Between 1951 and 1961 the labour forces in these areas grew by 2.7 per cent while that in the rest of Britain rose by 6.5 per cent. In the next 10

years the labour force shrank by 7.2 per cent in the urban areas while growing by 11.5 per cent outside the seven. Despite their relative decline in importance in terms of population and employment these large metropolitan areas still dominate in absolute size. About a third of Britons live in the big seven, and they accounted for 35 per cent of the resident British labour force in 1971.

The report suggests that as living standards have improved and the technology of transport and communications advanced, the pursuit of more space outside the cities has been made possible. This trend is also thought likely to continue.

In spite of the decline in the labour force in the metropolitan areas, in all but two the number of managers, professionals and self-employed increased, although the most obvious difference between the

metropolitan groups and the rest of the country was that employment of other skilled and other non-manual workers fell in the former and rose in the latter.

### More accidents

In the first three months of 1977 there were 62,677 accidents at work notified to the Factory Inspectorate, of which 110 were fatal. This is 11,145 more than in the last quarter of 1976. Miners are excluded from these figures.

The area with the most accidents in the latest quarter was the North-east, where 5,657 took place with 14 fatalities.

### Employment falls

The number of jobs in Britain fell by 165,000 between June, 1975 and 1976, to 22,048,000. This is shown in the results for the detailed annual census of

employment for 1976. The number of men in full-time employment fell by 144,000 and the number of women by 56,000.

There has been a marked slackening in the trend of growing female part-time employment in the 1970s, which has not been picked up by the quarterly census. The 34,000 increase between 1975 and 1976 was the smallest since the annual census began in 1971.

### Union membership up

Total union membership rose by 3.6 per cent to reach 12,376,000 in 1976. The total number of unions rose from 461 to 462. The 11 largest unions had 62.4 per cent of the total membership. Men accounted for 71.2 per cent of all union members, but the proportion of women in the unions increased slightly from 28.4 per cent to 28.8 per cent.

## Two new proposals on accounting

By Our Financial Staff

Two new accountancy standards have been proposed in the form of exposure drafts by the International Accounting Standards Committee.

One, the eleventh exposure draft by the IASC, covers accounting for foreign transactions and the translation of foreign financial statements. It suggests that, with some exceptions, foreign currency deals should be recorded using the foreign exchange rates existing at the time of the transaction. It also requires detailed disclosure of foreign exchange gains or losses.

The second, the IASC's twelfth exposure draft, covers accounting for construction contracts, but in the United Kingdom and Ireland this subject matter is covered by accounting standard 9.

## European airbus £30m UK deal

Orders worth £30m for further sets of wings for the European A300 airbus have been received by British Aerospace.

This brings the value of total orders for airbus wings placed with the Hawker Siddeley Aviation factories within BA since the start of the airbus programme to £150m, providing employment for 2,000 workers.

Orders for the airbus, made by a consortium of international aircraft manufacturers in France, West Germany, Britain, Holland and Spain, have doubled to 110 in the past 11 months.

From Air announced on Tuesday an order for 10

## Hint on N Sea gas to spin out reserves

By Edward Townsend

Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of British Gas, gave a broad hint yesterday that the state corporation might take less gas from the North Sea in future in an attempt to spin out reserves.

Speaking at the presentation of this year's gas energy management awards, Sir Denis said there was much that could be done to the nation's requirements to ensure a plentiful supply, "but not an embarrassing over-supply of indigenous oil and gas by year".

In the special case of gas, because of the contracts designed by British Gas from the outset, there were a number of additional options available.

"We will be doing our best to prolong the life of North Sea gas as far as possible into the future—even if this means paying for some gas now but leaving it under the sea for the future instead of selling it into non-premium markets."

Earlier, Sir Denis said there was enough gas to meet the needs of all premium markets—domestic customers, commercial premises and industrial users—

well ahead, at least to the end of the century, on the basis of discovered reserves.

Next year gas would be saving about £3,000m on the balance of payments against £3,400m for oil. "But neither gas nor oil could transform the economy; they could provide only a breathing space in which to rebuild the country's industrial base."

Conservation awards: Vauxhall's car plant at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, and North West Gas were named as joint winners of this year's gas energy management award, presented by British Gas.

The award, which goes to the company and gas region judged to have made the most significant contribution to energy conservation, went to Vauxhall for a scheme for improving furnace efficiency. This has resulted in potential savings of 500,000 therms a year, worth about £60,000 to the company.

Sir Denis said the 18 finalists had achieved savings totalling almost seven million therms a year, enough to meet the total energy requirements of a town the size of Dover.

## California tax hint on foreign companies

Mr. Jerry Brown, California State Governor, confirmed yesterday that he wants to limit the application of the state's unitary tax system on foreign companies based in California.

Answering questions during a private visit to London, Mr. Brown said he was doing this through support for the United States-United Kingdom Double Tax Treaty or, if necessary, state legislation.

The treaty, still under consideration by the United States Senate Foreign Relations Com-

mittee, contains a controversial clause limiting the application of unitary tax assessment systems to operations of foreign companies inside the United States, rather than worldwide as currently practised by the California state tax authorities.

In hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee in July, California state tax authorities opposed this provision, Article 9(4), on grounds it impinged on state versus federal tax rights.

## Shoppers by car switch to suburbs

By Patricia Tisdall

Large suburban supermarkets with extended opening hours and car parking facilities have contributed to a marked shift of trade away from the city centre, according to a study prepared by the York Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The research, carried out since September 1974, examines the effects on food shopping habits of an Asda superstore and a Hillards supermarket on the outskirts of the city.

It shows that the proportion of car shoppers using York city centre dropped from 25 per cent to 23 per cent over the first 12 months. Four food stores in the city centre closed and others lost trade between the Asda opening in 1974 and April 1976.

Shops which closed down included a Fine Fare branch with 4,000 sq ft of selling area but no car parking.

York, a study of Shopping, can be obtained from the York Junior Chamber of Commerce, Hemgate, York YO1 2PA.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Threat from cut-price EEC process plant

From Mr. J. L. Good

Sir, in his speech to the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances on November 24, the Secretary of State for Trade related to the need for Britain and its European partners to have selective safeguards against disruptive imports.

The process plant industry's current concern is not about low-cost producers outside Europe but cut-price competition in the home market coming mainly from within the European Community and against which there is no protection whatsoever.

Reports received by this association show that over recent months British fabricators have lost business worth well over £25m to foreign competitors. This work has been lost on price and price alone, quality and delivery are not in issue. In many cases orders have been placed at 30-50 per cent below United Kingdom prices.

As the materials content accounts for 35-50 per cent of the price of the finished plant, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that foreign fabricators are taking work at a loss or receiving covert help of some kind. Whatever the explanation, it is clear that British fabricators are suffering from determined efforts by foreign competitors to "buy" work in the United Kingdom to replace lost turnover in their own severely depressed home markets and that in effect steel is being dumped via finished products.

## Effect of employment protection law

From Mr. David Green

Sir, There can be a world of difference between the letter of the law and how it works—more than sufficient with employment protection law to account for the fact that Mr. Mordley and Mr. Francis (November 15) unjust.

The only practical advice that one can give to any employer confronted with a claim for unfair dismissal by an employee of more than six months standing is that it will cost him upwards of £150 for his own and his lawyer's time to contest it—win or lose; and that it will therefore pay him, regardless of the merits, to pay a substantial sum to dispose of it.

The reasons are simple. The burden of proof rests upon the employer. Even the simplest case may require the attendance of several witnesses; the more complex case, involving a long history of events—and particu-

larly financial matters—may consume hours in preparation and days before the tribunal. If the employer is successful, he can expect no order for costs, save in the case where he can satisfy the tribunal that the applicant acted frivolously or vexatiously. Such cases are very rare, as are cases in which High Court actions are struck out on similar grounds.

Even if costs are awarded, they are awarded (unless agreed or fixed at a lump sum) on one of the county court scales which, particularly with the impact of inflation, yield substantially less than the actual costs incurred; and costs ordered are only recoverable to the extent that the party ordered to pay them has funds—which very frequently a dismissed ex-employee has not.

It may be that Parliament intended to place employers in a position in which they are on

## Shirt workers in Northern Ireland

From Mr. G. Dolits

Sir, It was of great interest to read of the bishop's concern (Letter, November 29) for Hong-kong.

We own five factories in Northern Ireland producing shirts, one of them in Strabane, which has a 40 per cent rate of unemployment. Could he not show some concern for the shirt workers in Northern Ireland with all their troubles? The EEC is not advocating a total ban of imports, but a cut in the future rate of growth.

It is very difficult to maintain sales when the market is being flooded with shirts for half our price. The bishop should advocate decent wages and working hours for the Hongkong workers so that sales would be on merit and not on sweated labour.

Yours faithfully,  
G. DOLITS,  
Chairman,  
Burlington (Savile Row) Shirts Ltd.,  
25 Savile Row,  
London, W1X 1AA.

## Inflation

From Mr. Patrick Lawrence,  
Sir, "Inflation" is a word some daily papers shriek.

"It will no more the nation's vigour sap"  
(Production's less than a the three-day week)  
Which shows our true regeneration gap.  
Your obedient servant,  
PATRICK LAWRENCE,  
Globe House,  
Fawley,  
Wantage,  
Oxfordshire,  
November 17

# The 231 year old British Linen Bank yesterday went back to work. Founded by Royal Charter in 1746

On 30th November 1977 the merchant banking operations, assets and whole undertaking of Bank of Scotland Finance Company Limited—already Scotland's largest merchant bank—were transferred to The British Linen Bank Limited.

We are pleased to announce the revival of this respected bank which has financed trade and supported industry and commerce for more than two centuries.

Acceptances Corporate Finance  
Term Loans Deposits  
Direct Investment Leasing

Governor: Thomas N. Risk, B.L.,  
Deputy Governor: Thomas W. Walker, C.B.E., B.L.  
Chief Executive: D. Bruce Pattullo, B.A.  
Secretary: Joan Smith, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., Advocate

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK LIMITED

The Merchant Bank of the Bank of Scotland Group.

4 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7NZ 031-226 4077 87 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5TJ 041-221 6692

هكذا من الاصل



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Calm returns to the money markets

There are these around financial markets to whom it seems that the monetary authorities can do nothing right. Had the authorities, it is argued, pushed the MLR increase the week after the sterling float, everything in the garden would now be looking a lot rosier, at least rosier than it is. Markets could have been rapidly converted to the idea that the main monetary consideration had changed as from October 31 to one of overseas supply effects to those of domestic demand effects and, with the authorities apparently well on top of the situation, the smooth continuation of the public sector funding programme would not have been put at risk.

Whether things would have gone quite so smoothly could be open to doubt. But, right or wrong, the fact remains that the authorities do not appear to be in the happiest of positions at the moment.

Yesterday's move by the Bank to "communicate" with the market was the right one given the confusion and uncertainty that was building up, and the stabilising effect of the announcement was plain to see. But the market remains uneasy about the authorities' ability to resume the funding programme on any scale for the moment.

As I have already pointed out this week, the temporary run-down in institutional liquidity is one factor. But, equally important, of course, is the confidence factor. If the market believes that gilts will be bought, then money supply fears evaporate, the whole process becomes self-feeding and there is no need to raise interest rates further. If, on the other hand, it believes that too many investors are worried about what may happen to the money supply, the situation becomes deadlocked.

The hope at the moment is that nerves can be calmed sufficiently to ease that deadlock, and here the news background could well prove critical over the next few days. If things go the wrong way, the authorities would then have to reconsider their position, either in terms of the price of money, or, much against their will, quantitative restrictions on the banks. One address, meanwhile, is that the instrument designed to help cope with this kind of situation, namely the floating rate gilt, is clearly not able to fulfil its intended role.

### Rothmans Increasing market share

Rothmans International is now claiming to have won a 10 per cent share of the United Kingdom cigarette market, which compares with only 7.6 per cent last year and 6.9 per cent in 1975. During approximately the same period Imperial Group, the market leader, has lost its share of the King Size market from 11 per cent to around 40 per cent, but its gains look more and more to have been at the expense of its own cheaper, smaller brands, which have dominated the United Kingdom market, but which are increasingly threatened by the change in tax treatment favouring larger sizes coming into effect with EEC harmonization on January 1.



Sir David Nicolson, chairman of Rothmans International.

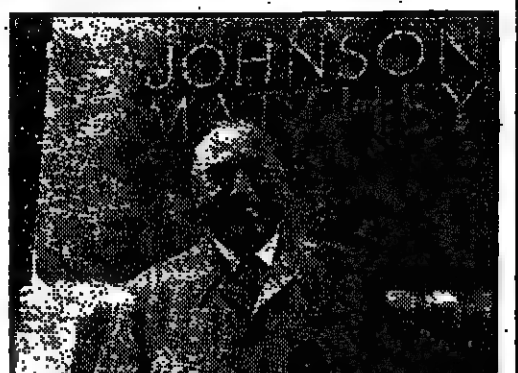
The cost to Rothmans has been an apparent fall in United Kingdom profits despite healthy gains in exports. The potential, however, is clearly seen as being very great indeed. Rothmans is able to compete with Imperial's dominance (a 66 per cent total market share in 1976) only because of its strength elsewhere in Europe and burgeoning third world and Middle East sales which helped six months' profits to September to rise 30 per cent to £30m.

A general switch to King Size, where it is strong, has given Rothmans the chance to attack Imperial's market strength. Any idea that the price-cutting and marketing war will stop in January when margins would otherwise rise as the new tax laws come into effect, looks increasingly unlikely. The prize is to grab a bigger slice of a market in which sales growth by any other means is extremely slow. Such chances come rarely

and Rothmans is likely to face, in the New Year, increased competition from BAT, whose presence in the United Kingdom so far is very small, with its State Express 555 brand, and possibly from Philip Morris.

Such competition is bound to draw in both Imperial and Gallaher, which could make the immediate future profits potential in the United Kingdom fairly grim. Rothmans meanwhile is having problems holding market share in Germany, although making up for declining cigarette sales with hand-rolled tobacco, and is facing the prospect of keener margins as a result of a higher pound.

Second-half profits are not expected to improve on the same period last year and in the short-term the best growth has now passed. The shares, though, have overperformed the market by about 15 per cent since January and the sector by about twice that. At 52p the prospective yield is 5.9 per cent and, without any promise of a dividend increase on the relaxation of restrictions the shares look fairly valued.



Johnson Matthey whose chairman is Lord Robert (above), seems to be clearing the decks for the ending of dividend controls. Its interim payment is raised by 20 per cent to 9.25p a share, which would allow only a minor increase in the final payment under the existing rules.

Meanwhile profits in the second quarter were virtually static but that was hardly surprising given sluggish industrial demand, a point underlined by results from people like ICI, GKN and Metal Box. Thus, the first quarter's 17 per cent profit increase has been cut to a little under 10 per cent at the interim stage, while margins reversed the first quarter trend and declined.

The banking side has felt the effect of low interest rates. It has been seeing good business in the gold bullion market which is volatile at present. While the Rustenburg increase in platinum prices will provide Jm with higher commission profits for the remainder of the year, the economic climate means that profit estimates have been downgraded since the beginning of the year. A modest increase to £23m in pre-tax profits seems in sight, which puts the shares at 450p on a prospective p/e ratio of 6.6, yielding 4.4 per cent on a five times covered dividend.

### Company secretaries In search of greater status

Under law every company must have a company secretary. That said, anyone can become one, a point not lost on the Institute of Chartered Secretaries & Administrators which apparently went through The Stock Exchange Year Book and found that even among listed companies the secretary invariably did not claim any qualification.

Yet the company secretary has clear responsibilities under law. The Institute says that there are over 90 instances in which incorrect performance of duties by a company secretary could result in criminal proceedings; the secretary is seen as the guardian of law within the company. Against this background and growing demands for a high level of competence and integrity from company officers, the Institute is pushing for statutory recognition for company secretaries; a Private Member's Bill will be sponsored towards this by Mr John Cockcroft, the Conservative MP for Nanterre.

In future, the Institute wants to see all company secretaries, but initially those employed in listed companies, holding some recognized accountancy or legal qualification, though naturally it says that its own broadly-based qualification which leads initially to becoming a licentiate of the Institute is the best available. Since it involves papers in economics, finance, law, accountancy, personnel, administration and management, it assumes that the company secretary has to be something of an expert in many fields—someone who is a little tired, perhaps, of being taken for granted.

## Can Whitehall handle the pension fund monster?

Maurice Corina

reports on the problems generated by the £1,920m actuarial deficiency in the Post Office Staff Superannuation Scheme

The Government will soon deliver its reply to the report submitted in the summer by Professor Charles Carter, chairman of the Whitehall-appointed Post Office Review Committee. While attention will be concentrated on the case for splitting the corporation into two distinct and separately directed businesses, probably the most intriguing part of the reply will concern the Post Office Staff Superannuation Scheme and its huge £1,920m actuarial deficiency.

Payments (which fall on customers) to make up the deficiency are creating an investment monster while Whitehall and the Post Office wrangle about the causes of the paper deficit.

Even before last year's actuarial valuations, which raised the deficiency from £1,020m to £1,920m (so raising the sums due to the fund from the Post Office under its 20-year scheme for eliminating deficit), it was estimated that by March, 1985, the fund could have over £3,000m to invest.

Some idea of this colossal sum can be gained if it is measured against the figure of just under £50m only six years ago when it was established as a contributory scheme.

The Carter committee's views on what it called the confused and sorry story of the pension fund did not, at the time of publication, attract much scrutiny, given public interest in other matters. But they deserve a full Whitehall reply before the dimensions of the pension problem are being a fund so large that it may become impossible to manage properly—become a matter of major public concern.

Customers of the Post Office for the Post Office—now to be faced by its new board, which includes employees' representatives—is

that each year the actuary reviews the rate of deficiency contribution to ensure that it meets the target of liquidation in the 20 years from April 1, 1972. The effect is to place a constant heavy charge on the profit and loss account. Representations to the Government for a contribution have so far gone unheeded. Yet there is no doubt that the Post Office has a strong case, given the calculation of notional liabilities on a highly dubious basis for a year prior to the establishment of the corporation. The Carter committee has made a recommendation that the hopeless task of making good the deficiency as at present assessed should be abandoned. Instead, it has urged acceptance of the principle that Post Office users in each year pay the pensions attributable to the workforce at an annual rate, subject to a smoothing arrangement tied in which is described as a partial fund sufficient to protect pensions in all circumstances (including a big contraction in business).

The basis of the partial fund could be the existing superannuation fund augmented by the Post Office balance sheet, which would incorporate a big slice of the deficiency as an unfunded liability to the fund. This would be done by writing up assets to current value with one eye on the fact that, originally, the corporation advanced assets at historic cost. This is an interesting compromise and the Government can hardly ignore the suggestion, even if it sees objections. What is clear is that customers of Post Office services will eventually protest loudly unless something is done to ease this burden.

The constant headache for Post Office—now to be faced by its new board, which includes employees' representatives—is

## Concrete platforms fall from oilmen's favour

The sad story of the Government's attempts to give Britain the capacity to build concrete oil production platforms on a large scale is likely to end in the New Year. This is when the Scottish oilfield, on the 40m yard at Portavadie on Loch Fyne which has never been used and is now surplus to requirements.

At about the same time the lease will expire on the 57m yard at Portavadie, which has been used for the Clyde and ownership will pass to the British Steel Corporation.

The question which their new owners will then be asking is whether the oil industry really has moved on to cheaper fields of submarine technology, leaving the two massive graving docks to be like latter-day dinosaur prints beside the deep waters of the west Scottish coast, or whether there is a purpose remaining for them.

Both yards made strenuous but unrequited efforts to capture a share of the market for concrete platforms which never materialized. Reaching to earlier unpreparedness and the debacle of Drumblair and Loch Carron, where development of a yard for concrete platforms was turned down after a long and costly public inquiry, the Government agreed to underwrite the yards to ensure that Britain had the capacity to handle work immediately and compete with Norway and France for the half-dozen large orders which the oil industry had said might be expected.

Inflation, a switch to steel structures and promising research into new and potentially cheaper methods of extracting oil from deep water, all conspired to make the oil companies hesitant. The rockering cost of developing the fields—Forties, for example, rose from £300m to £900m—and the cut-back in the demand for crude oil caused the yards to be under-used.

The Commons Committee of Public Accounts recommended closure of the two empty yards because the cost of keeping them secure was more than £250,000 a year.

The Humberston yard, completed last year, was created by Andoc, a British-Dutch consortium, and leased from the

Humberston Development Company. There is an option to extend the lease for a further four months but there is little expectation that an order will be secured in that time.

The yard is the least likely to require a deep-water concrete structure is the BP Magnus which is in storage on the same latitude as the Forties. The company is understood to be looking closely into the possibility of using a submersible system, less exposed to the fierce weather and is claimed to be cheaper to build.

Humberston is perhaps in a better position than Portavadie. The dock, which has been reduced from 100m to 50m, borders the immensely deep waters of the Firth of Clyde and there are a number of possible uses in connection with neighbouring industry.

Although the British Steel Corporation has indicated that there is no specific short-term use for the dock, the land it occupies could prove very useful in future.

Portavadie is in a more difficult situation. With hindsight it is easy to say that the decision to develop the yard ahead of an order was too precipitate, but the Government was working on the best estimates of likely requirements and three orders had already been lost to overseas yards because Britain lacked proper facilities to build massive concrete platforms.

The less by Sea Platform Constructors expired almost a year ago and talks have taken place with Mowlem and Taylor Woodrow, which had sought to develop Drumblair, but the likely future of the market decided them against going ahead with the alterations to Portavadie to take their own design of platform. The yard had already been hampered in bidding for contracts by not having a tried and tested design.

Since development of the North Sea began, some 30 steel and concrete platforms have been built or ordered for the British fields and markets overseas but the initial promising rush of activity in the early seventies dried up.

It is now thought that the Government would feel it unpolitic to channel orders to

By a statistician's sleight of hand the financial health of Britain's industrial and commercial companies could look about £600m worse than it does at present. The same accounting change would probably make industry look considerably better off in the 1980s. British industry's net acquisition of financial assets (NAFA) is an increasingly popular measure of the financial health of industrial and commercial companies. Although in many other countries a large company borrowing requirement is considered bullish, this is not the case in Britain. A smaller financial deficit or larger surplus—as measured by NAFA—is taken as an indicator of better profits and more available cash for investment.

At present, however, this measure includes as company income some £1,000m which never in fact enters the country and excludes another £500m which is earned and then spent solely in Britain.

In Britain's balance of payments accounts, profits earned overseas and left there for reinvestment are counted as an inflow in the current invisibles account, along with remittances. They are then recorded in the capital account as an outflow of investment funds.

The converse is true of the profits of foreign-owned companies in Britain. This treatment of unremitting profits on overseas operations is the one recommended by the International Monetary Fund. Its rationale is that only by showing the two cancelling transactions can a country's claim on its overseas assets be incorporated in its payments accounts.

The net effect for Britain in the last few years has been to improve the current account overall by about £700m, and worsen the capital account by the same amount. (This is larger than the effect on industrial and commercial companies alone as it includes financial companies and public corporations.)

So where does the net acquisition of financial assets of industrial and commercial companies come into all this? The net financial position of the four main sectors—the public, personal, company and overseas sectors—must balance. The overseas sector is debited in the current account of the balance of payments (that is, deficit) for unremitting profits earned on United Kingdom assets overseas and credited for the profits earned by foreign companies on their British operations which we then re-invest in Britain.

Therefore, the company sector must be credited with the first and debited with the second, if the sum of the sectors is to balance. This then gives a somewhat misleading picture of the money in company hands in Britain. Some would also argue that it gives an inaccurate picture of the current account of the balance of payments, but the

present British definitions for the balance of payments and the rest of the national accounts seem unlikely to be changed. However, statisticians in the Central Statistical Office are considering publishing an additional table to give a better measure of the company sector borrowing requirement than the present NAFA. As demonstrated by the recent Financial Statistics Users' Conference they are open to suggestions as how best this should be done.

The first improvement would be to exclude unremitting profits from the measure of industrial companies' financial position. The effect of this change would become much more favourable over the next few years, as profits in the oil and gas sectors build up.

Caroline Aiken

Where do payments deficits come from? The obvious and right answer is that they come from the fact that some other country has an equivalent payment surplus, but one would never be able to deduce this obvious fact from the forecasts for the current account in 1978 which

A comparison of current account payments (in £000m) for 1978

Country	OECD	NIER
US	-21	-15.9
UK	4	3.9
Canada	-5	-5
Japan	10	17.1
France	-3	-5
Germany	-3	-0.1
Italy	1.5	8.4
Total OECD	-25	-7.1
Non-OECD	33	29.8
Opex	35	35.7
Other	-11	1.2
Total	-34	0

The OECD total includes figures for countries other than those listed.

seem to have caused rather a stir last week in the Working Party Three of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

If one adds up the individual deficit and surplus figures (the OECD figures are compared to those of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research in the table) a strange fact emerges. This is that the world as a whole will have a current account deficit next year of around \$34,000m (£13,700m).

More worryingly, things are getting worse; the global deficit was only around \$23,000m this year, and it is used to be \$3,000m or less. The truth is, of course, that we are not building up a huge deficit with Mars but that the figures are wrong.

A combination of growth of unrecorded trade (notably arms exports) and other items is distorting the figures out of all recognition. But until we come to terms with the new system we should adopt, maybe we should worry a little less about some of the more horrifying projections we see.

David Blake

## Hargreaves Group half-year results show further positive growth

- Group pre-tax profit for the first time exceeded £2 million at the half way stage.
- Group profit after tax rose 11% to £962,000.
- 22% increase in Group turnover to £70,448,000.
- Interim Dividend increased to 1.3 pence per share, payable on 27th January, 1978.
- Retained earnings up by £619,000.

### Summary of Results

	Half-Years to 30th September	Year to 31st March
	1977	1976
	£'000	£'000
Profit before taxation	2,012	1,825
Profit after taxation	962	870
Earnings per share	3.6p	3.6p
Group Turnover	70,448	57,872
		134,057

Hargreaves Group, Bowcliffe Hall, Bramham, Wetherby, W. Yorkshire LS23 6LP  
Commercial vehicle distribution; plant hire, contracting and waste disposal; fertilisers; fuel oil and solid fuel; insurance; quarrying; transport, shipping and warehousing.

## Business Diary: A CBI for the professions?

Members of the British professions are going in for one of their periodical fits of self-questioning about their inability to organize themselves into a decent version of the TUC or the CBI.

A week before Alan Strachan, immediate past chairman of the members' affairs standing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, will deliver an address in London on the need for some such organization.

The council of the Law Society, the solicitors' body is known to be considering how best the British professions might secure a better hearing in Brussels—or, for that matter, Westminster.

One way likely to be discussed is affiliation to a body recognized by the EEC's Economic and Social Committee. Such a body is the Brussels-based European Secretariat of Liberal Intellectual and Social Professions (SEPLIS), hitherto dominated by French and Belgian professionals.

SEPLIS, however, prefers its members to be groups of associations, which takes the back to the question: to combine or not to combine? The Irish Republic has had a Federation of Professional Associations for ten years.

The Law Society council has

before it a broadly favourable report on SEPLIS from Stanley Crossick, who sat in at a recent meeting as a representative of the EEC's Consultative Committee of Bar and Law Societies.

Whether the surveys and the solicitors can agree among themselves, let alone with anybody else, remains to be seen. No such move is likely to get far without the blessing of doctors of one stripe or another, who have blocked previous initiatives either because they think that inter-professional groupings are inimical to their traditions of independence.

But while British professionals dither, in Brussels the bureaucrats are steadily reshaping the boundaries between one discipline and another, and dreaming up harmonization measures not at all to British tastes.

June Evans, a British member of the EEC's Economic and Social Committee specializing in professional matters, joked in London last week that the Brussels watchdog was: "If it moves, put it under regulation on it, if it stands still, harmonize it."

For a bargain 80p and in a projected 47 minutes,

businessmen will from December 16 be able to commute from the centre of Heathrow Airport, London, to Piccadilly by way of an extension of the London Underground.

The extension, which is to be opened by the Queen, has been 31 years and seven months coming (the Minister of Aviation said in 1946 when opening Heathrow, that priority had to be given to a tube line).

At first sight, it looks like being a boon to the flying executive. But will it really be changing travel patterns?

The journey between Heathrow and Piccadilly has 18 stops, which is a lot, but probably less than would be made by a car or taxi at traffic lights over the same route.

The first train on weekdays arrives at the airport at 6.30 am and the last leaves at 11.30 pm and 10.30 am so that air passengers taking the tube into London could tangle with

the hordes of London office workers boarding further up the line.

And little extra space is being provided on the new trains for luggage, so let us hope that it is possible to get out at Piccadilly rather than at points between there and the Cockfosters terminus.

Swan Hunter shipyard workers may stick to their overtime ban, but Phil Evans's work-

force has gone one better (or worse).

Faced with their largest-ever order, the workers, who have never raised their production rate above a snail's pace, have now packed it in altogether and fallen asleep on the job.

A union spokesman for the workers, if asked, no doubt suggest it was part of a survival plan. For the workers are snails, and Evans, apart from being a lecturer in agricul-

tural engineering, is a snail farmer. Evans, his wife and a friend started the farm a year ago in a small shed behind the Lamb Inn, Shipston-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire. He breeds principally for the table—his pot is much sought after—but Wychwood Snails recently received an order for 16,000 gastropod molluscs (snails) from a chemical company who required them for research.

The order will not now be completed until next year. Winter has intervened and the snails have gone into hibernation.

Evans is now insulating the shed to ensure that cold does not stop work again.

The Women in Management voluntary group this week published the second edition of their *Women's Who's Who*. This is different not only from the *Who's Who* in its sexist bias, and in having fewer than 200 entries rather than several thousand. It is also becomingly coy about ages. Where *Who's Who* gives a date of birth irrespective of sex, *Women's Who's Who* prefers merely to give an "age group". This is variously "30-40" or "40-50". Women older than this are described simply as "over 50".



"I can see no objection to import controls since we have so few exports vulnerable to retaliation."

Followed



## STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS LIMITED

Exporters and distributors overseas, export financiers, steel stockholders, importers

Principal U.K. Subsidiaries:

Adam & Harvey Limited  
B. Ashworth & Co. (Overseas) Limited

Results for the year ended 31st March 1977

- ▷ Total Group profit before tax, including share of profit of an associated company, £1,449,000 (1976—£1,092,000).
- ▷ Earnings per Ordinary Stock Unit of 25p before extraordinary items: 19.7p (1976—12.4p).
- ▷ Increased Final Dividend of 1.81658p per Ordinary Stock Unit (1976—1.5p) making 2.56658p for the year (1976—2.25p).

In his Statement, the Chairman, Major-General A. M. McKay, C.B., C.Eng., comments on the substantial profits growth achieved against a background of persistently difficult trading conditions both in the U.K. and abroad. In the current year the Company has continued to trade profitably and indications are that this year's results will be reasonably satisfactory.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Hall No. 3, Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street, London EC2 on Thursday, 22nd December 1977 at 12 noon.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, King's House, 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8DR.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## About turn as the optimists come back on Bank's MLR signal

Bearish indications from Wall Street and continued interest rate jitters prompted widespread marking down soon after the opening yesterday. However, the lunchtime signal from the Bank of England that MLR should rise no further in the short-term prompted a quick about-turn that prompted dealers to start talking of a firm run-up to Christmas.

On the whole these optimists seemed to get the better of the pessimists who were still keeping an eye on the pay disputes and both equities and gilts managed to close with net gains. But the feeling is now that more substantial backing is needed for the rally. Yesterday's movements were largely technical with business abnormally low throughout the equity market.

Gilts did show a certain amount of activity. Jobbers

Pikington Brothers shares at 4.3p are splendidly firm ahead of interim figures due soon. Indeed they jumped 13p on Tuesday, more than recovering ground lost earlier. But the yield is a meagre 3.3 per cent and profits in the half year to September 30 may have risen only modestly from £27.6m to say, £30m or a bit more. If so, the share's strength could be tested.

opened at overnight prices that drifted back until the signal from the Bank when the stock rallied strongly to score gains of up to a point in the shorts and a quarter in the longs. Interest rate uncertainty was also dominating property shares early on but the signal plus good final results from MEPC fuelled a strong rally. MEPC

itself closed 4p up at 118p while Land Securities gained 3p to 196p.

Industrial leaders mirrored the progress of gilts and finished at their best with ICI up 5p at 362p, Becton up 7p at 625p and Fisons up 2p at 375p.

In engineering GKN followed suit with a gain of 6p to 284p and in the same sector speculative takeover talk continued to push John Brown ahead with a 5p gain to 258p.

All the excitement over base rates has had remarkably little effect on a quiet bank sector

though Barclays showed some movement during the day as their board decision on rates was awaited and the share closed a penny up at 326p.

Williams & Glyn's made its base rate announcement and the parent company National and Commercial Banking Group whose results are due today, lost a penny to 70p.

In electricals Kvaic dipped sharply ahead of today's interim figures only to recover

and close unchanged at 207p. EMI with support from a broker's circular rose 6p to 216p.

Results are also due today from BP and the old shares added 2p to 920p in anticipation while the old lost 5p to 375p as the final call date approached. Oil Exploration ran 4p into strong speculative demand and added 20p to 322p.

On the special situations front Allied Polymer, recently mentioned here, rose 6p to 38p before being suspended on bid talks with BTR. Reed & Smith returned from a suspension price of 35p to 63p on announcement of terms from St Regis and Yarrow added 7p to 280p on hopes of a good nationalization compensation deal.

Stores were firm on bullish indicators from the National Institute on consumer spending and British Home Stores added 7p to 227p while W. H. Smith rose 2p to 780p.

Boosted dividends offset

bearish trading forecasts from Avon Rubber to push the shares up 6p to 176p while better than expected figures from Rothmans were accom-

panied by a less than bullish statement and the shares lost 3p to 52p.

Equity turnover on November 29 was 566.6m (22.84 bar-gains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were BP parley paid, ICI, Oil Exploration, Shell, BP old, GUS, Becton, Marks & Spencer, BATS, Kvaic, Bank Organisation, second Inter-national and Distillers.

### Latest results

Company	Div	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
per share	per share	per share	per share	per share	per share	per share
Avon Rib (F)	108.0(87.8)	5.4(2.4)	68.4(27.5)	5.2(4)	23/1	9.2(5)
Barker & Dhan (F)	20.4(18.5)	0.02(0.01)	0.35(0.79)	0.1(1.2)	—	—
Croft Mailing (F)	0.60(0.51)	0.04(0.06)	—	0.1(1.2)	—	1.7(2.14)
Gordon Hill (F)	—	0.13(0.08)	—	1.40(1.40)	—	—
W. Henshall (F)	1.2(0.98)	0.07(0.06)	—	0.1(1.2)	—	—
Ham Brewery (F)	—	5.7(4.5)	—	3.8(4)	—	4.5(4.07)
Int Prop Dev (F)	2.3(7.8)	0.06(1.39)	0.6(1.7)	6.1(5.0)	1/2	—
James Mathie (F)	10.0(11.1)	0.02(0.02)	—	—	—	—
Lon Cremation (F)	—	1.4(1.1)	—	2.3(1.5)	—	—
Manfield Br (F)	—	0.08(0.06)	—	1.7(1.8)	28/12	1.1(1.1)
MEPC (F)	—	10.00(7.5)	—	62.5(17.5)	5/1	62.5(17.5)
Municipal Fp (F)	—	37.9(29.1)	—	0.73(0.66)	26/1	2.08(1.8)
Peatling Tis (F)	—	0.16(0.09)	—	—	—	—
Rothmans Int (F)	853.0(734.7)	8.7(1.7)	0.91(0.61)	—	—	—
Suffd Refr (F)	0.47(0.40)	0.06(0.04)	10.6(7.7)	4.0(NH)	—	4.0(NH)
Timley Lamp (F)	1.5(1.0)	0.06(0.04)	—	—	—	—

## MEPC

## Confidence for the future

Highlights from the Statement by the Chairman, Sir Gerald Thorley, T.D., F.R.I.C.S., for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

The recovery in the Group's profitability has continued. Profit before taxation of £9m has increased from £4.5m in 1976 and, after all charges including a £1.2m appropriation for depreciation of overseas properties, the earnings available to ordinary shareholders are £3.2m, a turn round of £3.2m. The taxation charge has decreased from 71% of gross profit in 1976 to 54% in 1977. An interim dividend of 1.7p net per share payable on 29th December, 1977, has been declared which, together with the related tax credit, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 2.575p per share. This dividend will absorb £1.8m of the profit available and a final dividend will not be paid.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Investment Portfolio

The investment portfolio continues to be the underlying strength of the Company and from it will come much of the future growth of income. This will be supplemented by the developments as they are completed and become income producing, and by the application of good property management.

Sales of investment properties in the United Kingdom have continued during the year and an amount of £12.7m has been realised. This has involved the sale of 99 properties at a surplus of £1.1m over book value. Our target sales for the current financial year has already been met and further sales will therefore only be made when dictated by the principles of good estate management.

#### Development Portfolio

During the last few years MEPC has retained a number of major sites, in excellent positions, which could not be developed because of the lack of two vital ingredients — a demand for the finished space at rentals which will support building costs and a willingness by institutional sources to fund development schemes. During 1977 we have had evidence that conditions are changing and in 1978 we expect that our pre-letting and funding requirements will be met to enable us to commence development of our sites in Guildford and Oxford Street.

We are conscious of the need to control the extent of our development programme to ensure that the simultaneous development of a number of sites does not bring with it the attendant risk which could arise from any downturn in the demand for space.

#### Residential Developments

Last year I said that we needed to achieve another £5m of sales to close the operations of MEPC Housing Ltd. and J. Sanders & Son (Holdings) Ltd. I am glad to tell you that we have reduced our holding in these subsidiaries to around £1.2m without having to make further provisions.

#### VALUATION OF PROPERTIES

The income earning part of the investment portfolio has been valued on the basis of open market value and it is our intention in the future to revalue this portfolio annually. The result of the valuation was a surplus over net book value attributable to MEPC of £6.6m which has been incorporated in the Balance Sheet.

This year we have been able to review our uncompleted development sites by reference to their value at completion and have made provisions in respect of certain of them totalling £381m. The uplift in value expected from other sites and developments in progress has been disregarded.

### SUMMARY OF GROUP REVENUE (in £'000's)

	1977	1976
Gross revenue	61,330	58,300
Revenue before taxation	8,972	5,460
Taxation	4,847	3,903
Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders	2,236	—981
NET DIVIDEND per share	1.7p	0.1p

### FINANCE

Since 1974 the Group's principal financial priority has been to reduce its overall level of borrowings, particularly secured loans and loans denominated in currencies other than sterling. Overall, the loan capital of the Group has been reduced during the past year from £121m to £131m. Of this amount, £82m is attributable to the sale of MEPC Canada, £10m to net repayments in the UK and £12m in the US. It should be noted that both secured loans and also currency loans have fallen from just over 50% to just under 50% of the loan capital of the Group.

In addition to our continuing policy of reducing debt it has also proved possible to re-finance a number of large loans which became due for repayment during the past year. The improvement in sterling during the year gave rise to a loss of £12m on conversion of our overseas assets for Balance Sheet purposes into sterling. A large part of this loss related to our Canadian subsidiary. It should be noted, however, that an improvement in sterling relative to foreign currencies favourably affects the Balance Sheet by reducing debt and the Revenue Account by reducing interest payments.

Contractual commitments have been reduced during the year from £29.5m to £16.8m of which £6.9m relates to Exchange Centre, Sydney. The reduction in contractual commitments has been achieved by the completion of our major developments in Hawaii, Birmingham and Frankfurt, by the sale of our Canadian subsidiary and also as a result of the progress made on Exchange Centre. We now intend to commence two major developments and one large refurbishment in the UK, the financing of which will be comfortably within the Company's resources.

The Balance Sheet shows cash and short term deposits of £13m available, a large portion of which results from the sale of our investment in Canada. In addition the Company's unsecured overdraft facilities have been increased during the year. Of the unsecured stand-by facility of US\$36m only \$5m has been drawn and it is unlikely to be further drawn upon in the current year.

### OVERSEAS

#### Canada

Due to the unfavourable outlook in Canada your Board decided that a sale of its investment in MEPC Canadian Properties Ltd. would be beneficial. This sale, at C\$51 million representing a large premium over the quoted share price, was negotiated and completed took place in September. The sale has made funds available for the support of overseas investments, particularly for those developments to which we are already committed. The effect of the sale will also be a considerable reduction in short term debt and elimination of much of the mismatching of foreign assets and liabilities.

#### United States

In 1974 we established a subsidiary in the

United States by the purchase of the Gamble and Norman commercial centres in Minneapolis — 650,000 square feet of office accommodation and 24 acres of undeveloped land. Since that time development of 10 acres has been undertaken and two office buildings totalling 100,000 square feet have been completed and let. Two further office buildings totalling 116,000 square feet are planned and are scheduled for completion during 1978. In Chicago the Company also owns two fully let warehouse-investments comprising 105,000 square feet.

In January 1977, through our US associated company, we acquired a shopping mall of 700,000 square feet at Rochester, Minnesota and the Folsom Tower, a 773,000 square feet office block in central Minneapolis. Both investments are fully let.

In Hawaii, the Discovery Bay apartment development of 667 units is 62% sold and contracts for other sales representing 25% have been exchanged.

Our policy for the United States is one of cautious growth.

### Australia

Following our decision last year to build out Exchange Centre, the construction is progressing on scheduled time and cost, and the 22 storey main tower was topped out earlier this year. The Sydney Stock Exchange will occupy 80,000 square feet and it is well ahead with the fitting out programme. The investment properties of our Australian subsidiary, mainly comprising office and industrial properties in Sydney and Melbourne, are fully let.

### E.E.C.

Progress has been made on letting the office space in Manhattan Centre, Brussels, two-thirds of which is now occupied. The Eurobus, Frankfurt office development was completed in May 1977 and is now 60% let. The office market in Frankfurt is still over-supplied and the remainder of the letting may be slow. Conditions are still not appropriate for the development of our site in Munich for which consent has been granted for a shop and office complex. Our office property in the Champs-Élysées, Paris, has been refurbished and relet on a profitable basis.

The Irish investment portfolio continues to be fully let except for our newly completed development at Dun Laoghaire, where five of the one hundred and four shop units remain vacant.

### MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

I cannot stress too greatly that the more profitable position of the Group is largely due to the hard work and skill exercised by members of the staff and particularly to the managers upon whom we rely for the enthusiastic execution of Board policy and much original thought. The concurrent problems of inflation, salary restraint and the excessively high levels of direct taxation in the United Kingdom have not only reduced the standard of living of managers but, more harmfully, have in some cases brought about personal financial anxieties which could detract from business efficiency. This problem has at last been acknowledged by the politicians and a solution is urgently required.

### THE FUTURE

While we still have certain problems to solve, the Company has demonstrated that it has the skill and financial resources to deal with these problems. We are confident, therefore, that provided there is reasonable economic stability, your Company will continue to improve significantly its profitability in the coming year.

## De Beers to lift diamond output 13 pc

De Beers is planning to increase its total output of diamonds by some 13 per cent with expansion at its Kimberley and Namaqualand mines. The major increase will be at Finsch mine at a cost of £40m and which is the subject of a survey to produce 500,000 carats a year is on schedule and is also due to come to production next July.

In Namaqualand the small Langbechts mine is to be re-opened at a cost of £3.6m. Production at the rate of 60,000 carats a year is expected to begin next July. Development of the Kolgan mine to produce 500,000 carats a year is on schedule and is also due to come to production next July.

Meanwhile, a De Beers subsidiary is to spend £5m on a survey of a 100,000 square kilometre area in Namibia to the east of Windhoek.

### New capital issues

#### in November

Midland Bank says that the amount of "new money" raised in the United Kingdom by the issues in November was £214.0m, an increase of £83.2m on the total for October. With one month of the present year remaining, £1,427.9m has been raised so far, compared with £1,435.7m for the same period of 1976.

Public bodies accounted for only £38.0m of the total. Eight local authorities raised £3.8m by bond issues, the lowest monthly figure since December, 1973.

The amount raised by companies rose sharply from £75.2m in October to £176.0m in November.

### Turnround sweetener

#### from Barker & D

Confectionery and retailing group Barker & Debona has returned to profit at the half way stage after over three years of losses. In the six months to October 1, the group made a pre-tax profit of £22,000 against a £511,000 loss last time, on turnover up from £20.4m to £20.8m. Most of the improvement has come on the confectionery side which is now trading in the black and losses in the retail division have been reduced.

### Another record year

#### in sight at Helene

Pre a Forter, wholly-owned subsidiary of fashion and leisure wear group Helene of London, has entered into a trading arrangement with David Bagler, a company controlled by Mr. Bagler himself, for the manufacture of women's clothing. Any credit facilities which arise are to be supplied by the parent company Helene.

According to Mr. Bagler recently appointed to the board, Helene is on course for record profits again this year. In 1976 pre-tax profits of Helene amounted to a record £807,000.

### Hanson Trust

#### goes shopping

The chairman of Empire Investments and Investments, Mr. George Whitaker, forecasts a record tea crop in the current year. Coupled to very tight financial control this has lessened the impact of increased wages and rising costs, he tells shareholders in the annual report. Empire was the subject of a takeover bid by Caparo Investments earlier this year. Shareholders representing only 5.6 per cent of the equity accepted



## The British Petroleum Company Limited £1 Ordinary Stock Units

Offer for Sale by the  
Bank of England  
on behalf of H. M. Government

### Final Instalment Due 6th December 1977

The Bank of England wish to remind holders of Letters of Acceptance that the final instalment of £5.45 per £1 Stock unit MUST BE PAID BY 3 P.M. ON 6TH DECEMBER. Cheques for the amounts due, made payable to the Bank of England and crossed "Not negotiable — BP Stock" must be forwarded, with the LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE, to the APPROPRIATE RECEIVING BANK whose name and address appears in the box on the right-hand side of page 1 of the Letters of Acceptance.

### Registration of Renunciation

The attention of holders of renounced Letters of Acceptance, i.e., those with Form X completed or marked "Original duly renounced", is drawn to instruction 5 on page 3 of the Letter: it is essential that both Declaration (A) — where appropriate — and Declaration (B) at the foot of page 4 are signed before fully paid Letters are lodged for registration of renunciation on or before 15th December.

## Lake & Elliot, Ltd.

VALVES, STEEL CASTINGS  
ENGINEERING

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st July, 1977

	1977	1976
Group Turnover	£18,247m	£18,290m
Group Trading Profit	£1,121m	£2,027m
Earnings per Ordinary Share		
—before extraordinary item	4.44p	10.62p
—after extraordinary item	2.58p	10.62p
Ordinary Dividend	3.4814p	3.4385p

"Although the long term market prospects remain obscure, there has recently been a considerable improvement in the order position, the effect of which should be felt in the second half year. The Company, therefore, having taken drastic action to recover its momentum, faces the future with confidence tempered with prudence."

Peter Lake, Chairman

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Middlesex House, 29 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7HR

## Bank Leumi Base Rate

Bank Leumi (U.K.) Ltd. announces that, with effect from Wednesday, November 30th, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is increased from 6% to 7%. The rate of interest on 7-day notice Deposit accounts on sums below £1,000 is increased to 4%. For larger amounts interest rates will be quoted on application.



### BANK LEUMI (U.K.) LTD.

Registered Office: 4-7 Woodstock Street, London W1A 2AF  
Telephone: 01-629 1205

### KCA International

As announced with the Company results and following approval by shareholders

Berry Wiggins & Co. Limited  
has been renamed

## KCA International Limited

The Company Head Office remains at:  
9th Floor, Berkeley Square House,  
Berkeley Square, London W1X 6BY  
and the Registered Office at:  
Kingsnorth-on-the-Medway, Hoo, Rochester,  
Kent ME3 9ND.

هذا من الاصل



## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Asset growth at Cumulus tops sector average

By Alison Mitchell

Cumulus Investment Trust is a company with its feet firmly on the ground. In the year to September 30 last, the net asset value a share rose 57 per cent to 42p against a sector average of around 27 per cent.

Pre-tax revenue more than doubled in the period from a previous £25.7m to £56.3m partly as a result of the two subsidiary companies, turning in better performances. The income from the investment trust itself also increased, according to Mr John Smith, chairman.

During the year its offshoot Cumulus Systems moved from Newcastle to London and the subsequent expense and disruption hit profits from this side. However, the chairman forecasts an improvement in the current year and promises shareholders that the group will attempt to hold profits on this side from £8,000 to a minimum of £12,500.

Cumulus Systems has developed various computer programmes for financial management which show considerable promise.

During the year the company repaid its \$700,000 loan and has reduced its holdings in the United States to less than 3 per cent of the £2.4m portfolio.

At the time of the repayment the investments were worth more than the loan.

The dividend has been raised from 1.07p to 1.21p which on a share price yesterday which held steady at 25p gives a gross yield of 4.7 per cent.

Meanwhile Lord Dartmouth, chairman of Scottish Cities Investment Trust, expects a further increase in dividend income from investment in the current 12 months to September 30 next. However, he tells shareholders in the annual report that this improvement will be partly offset by the reduction in interest rates.

### Avon Rubber slows sharply but more-than-doubles total

By Our Financial Staff

Avon Rubber's recovery rate slowed significantly in the second half just as the group had predicted at the interim stage.

Even so profits continued to move ahead at a rate of around 50 per cent to provide a more-than-doubled total of £1.4m for the full-year to October 1.

The swift return to record profits after the losses of more than £500,000 is celebrated with an 80 per cent dividend boost.

Shareholders payments were cut back in 1975 and the group has now obtained Treasury permission to restore them to the earlier levels and add the 10 per cent maximum.

A final payment of 7.99p gross takes the total to 14.05p gross against the 7.50p of last year.

Shares of the Wiltshire-based tyres and industrial products group jumped 5p to 176p yesterday despite some fairly pessimistic comments about current trading from the directors.

During the first two months



Mr H. C. I. Rogers, chairman

of the current financial year they say Avon has experienced increased competition in the tyre business. This is expected to continue into 1978.

At the same time continued

disruption of production schedules through industrial disputes in the car industry make any forecast for the full year particularly difficult.

But the group says that its increasing efficiency and broader base should enable them to maintain the trend of improving profits.

This year's pre-tax profit is struck after a depreciation charge of £2.3m against £1.9m and consolidation of £115,255 against under £5,000 from associate companies.

Total turnover was 23 per cent ahead at 108m.

The group's decision not to provide for deferred tax resulting in a charge this time of under 14 per cent gives up the attributable profits improvement.

As a result earnings per share jump from 27.5p to 58.4p.

Avon Rubber has remained on a strong recovery track since it became one of the worst casualties of the United Kingdom car industry downswing two years ago.

### Rights issue and bumper results from Kenning

By Tony May

Kenning Motor Group, one of the country's biggest British Leyland distributors and hire fleets, plans to raise £3.8m by a one-for-four rights issue. At the same time it estimates that pre-tax profits for the year to end September leap 43 per cent to 17m for the first time.

The new issue will be at 75p compared with the rights price of 62p. Mr George Kenning, the chairman, notes that the group last made a rights issue, to raise £3m, in 1969 when profits stood at £1.8m.

Once again the group is spending the money on expansion, and also to keep a good balance between shareholders' funds and borrowings.

Loan stockholders will be offered the issue at 62p on the basis of one share for every £2.80 of loan stock held.

Commenting on the £7m profit forecast, Mr Kenning provides £350,000 to fund a small increase in the pensions of retired members, and also meet possible future increases in deferred pensions.

The board plans to recommend a gross dividend of 6.28p compared with 5.7p a year ago. The new shares will not rank

### MEPC reinstates its dividend after 64 pc jump to near-£9m

By Richard Allen

MEPC's reputation as one of the best recovery stocks in the sector was further enhanced by news of a 64 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to just under £9m in the year to September 30.

The figure is struck after a £5.2m transfer from reserves to cover outgoings on development properties and a much reduced £482,000 transfer for the Discovery Bay housing development, was above market estimates.

News of an interim and total dividend of 2.58p gross after two follow years provided a source for further enthusiasm and the shares jumped several pence.

After the over-expansion of

the early 1970s MEPC at last has managed to stabilize its financial position. Borrowings have been reduced from last year's £421m to £316m with £82m of the reduction being directly attributable to the recent sale of MEPC Canada.

A further £10m is due to net repayments in the United Kingdom and £12m in the United States due chiefly to sales of Discovery Bay Apartments.

Meanwhile the group has taken advantage of better conditions to carry out a revaluation of properties on the more cautious open market basis and this has thrown up the need for provisions of £38.25m for uncompleted sites and developments.

Net assets per share as a result are shown at 168p.

Sales of investment properties in the United Kingdom have realized £12.7m and Mr Gerald Thorley, chairman, says that the target for sales for the current year has already been met.

The massive development portfolio is expected to continue providing a drag on profitability but there have been signs that conditions are at least stabilizing. During 1978 the group expects that pre-letting and funding requirements will be met to enable starting major developments in Guildford and Oxford Street.

Contractual commitments in the meantime have been reduced from £29.5m to £16.8m, of which just under £7m relates to the Exchange Centre in Sydney.

### Tighter margins again put check on Alfred Dunhill

By Nicholas Hirst

Margins continued to narrow at Alfred Dunhill, the international luxury cigarette lighter, pipes, and men's toiletries group, in the six months to end-September.

Sales advanced by 35 per cent from £17.2m to £23.2m while profits were up from £4.3m to £4.6m, an increase of only 8 per cent.

In the whole of last year profits rose 27 per cent although sales again grew faster, with a rise of 51 per cent.

The figures for this half-year include the results of Montblanc-Simplo, a West German pen-making company, in which Dunhill bought a 50 per cent

holding with £1.58m. This first-time contribution includes five months from the German company, but these are not quantified.

An interim dividend of 4.03p gross is declared, costing a total £23,504, a 10 per cent gain, the maximum permitted under the counter-inflation legislation, on the 3.6p gross paid last year.

Because of the change in income tax rates shareholders will also be getting a net 0.0828p a share for last year, bringing last year's dividend up to the total permitted gross distribution.

Alfred Dunhill is 51 per cent owned by Rothmans International whose half-year results were also produced yesterday.

### Indonesian funding for \$500m

Jakarta — Bank Indonesia confirms that negotiations are advanced for a \$500m replacement financing loan for the Republic of Indonesia, acting through Bank Indonesia, the central bank.

This transaction has Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York acting as agent for a syndicate of international banks. It is being arranged in connection with the proposed prepayments in March, 1978 of the balances then outstanding of two loans amounting to \$850m raised in June and November, 1975.

In light of the marked and continuing improvement in the Republic of Indonesia's balance of payments and foreign exchange reserves, Bank Indonesia has decided it would be appropriate to replace these funds by a new loan.

The terms and conditions would reflect the present economic and financial strength of the Republic.

The amount outstanding under the two earlier loans has already been reduced from \$850m to \$790m as a result of scheduled amortization. By the time of the expected effective date of the replacement financing in March, 1978, the outstanding loans will, in the course of normal amortization, be further reduced to \$670m.

### More Financial News on P. 24

for the final dividend of 4p gross, but will qualify for subsequent payments.

Mr Kenning notes that changes in the scope of the business mean that 78 per cent of profits for the year came from activities other than the motor depots.

Referring to the group's development, Mr Kenning says that the car and van fleet was again greatly enlarged during the year and taken together with the contract hire fleet reached 12,000 vehicles compared with 8,500 last year. In the light of the encouraging 1976-77 results, the board intends to operate at the same volume in this sector of the business in the current year.

The contract hire fleet has continued to show record profits and this sector has been earmarked for further development. Obviously more capital is required here as vehicle prices continue to rise.

A result of British Leyland's rationalization of the franchise structure will be that the group will be able to obtain new franchises

### £5m loan for Argos as profits soar

Coinciding with the announcement of record turnover and profits for the year ended November 5, 1977, for Argos catalogues showrooms, its joint managing director, Mr Joe Phillips, gave details of a £5-million loan by Barclays Bank to finance the next stage of the company's new showroom development plan.

He stated that Argos would have an estimated profit of some £750,000 on a £50-million turnover for 1976-77, after

accounting for the development costs of the 13 showrooms opened in the year.

These forecast results compare with a turnover of £26.4m for 1975-76, and profits of £55,000, again, taking into account development costs of the 11 showrooms opened that year.

In giving details of the Barclays loan, he explained that the agreement was for borrowing facilities of up to £5m to finance the next stage of Argos' showroom development.

By the end of next year, Argos plans to add to its current network of 65 showrooms a further 20, and the Barclays loan will boost the company's growing fund of retained profits set aside for future development.

The provision of bank financing will help Argos stay on course to its aim of 100 showrooms by 1980. Mr Phillips added that Argos was likely to reach a £70m turnover next year, with a corresponding increase in profits.

## A new force in international commercial banking



## Allied Arab Bank Ltd بنك الإتحاد العربي

Now established in London.  
Allied Arab Bank

is in a unique position to provide financial advice and services to Arab customers and corresponding assistance to Western clients seeking to develop business in the Arab World.

Allied Arab Bank offers the full range of international commercial services provided by an authorised bank.

These include:  
Current accounts  
Savings accounts  
Deposit accounts  
Trustee accounts  
Fixed time deposits

Documentary credits  
Documentary collections  
Foreign and domestic payment transactions  
Collections of bills and cheques  
Foreign exchange

Stock operations  
Safe deposits  
Travellers cheques  
Operations in the international markets in sterling and Eurocurrencies

Financing credits  
Investment advice and management  
Project finance and development  
Preparation of feasibility studies  
Syndicated loans

Authorised and paid up capital: £15 million

## Allied Arab Bank Ltd

Cunard House, 88 Leadenhall Street,

London EC3A 3DR

Telephone: 01-283 9111

Telex: 886950

## BASE RATE

With effect from the close of business on 1st December 1977 and until further notice TSB Base Lending Rate will be 7% per annum



Trustee Savings Banks Central Board,  
P.O. Box 99, 3 Gracechurch Street,  
London EC3P 3BX



## MARKET REPORTS

**COPPER:** Cash wire bars gained 12.50 to 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00. Cash wire bars gained 12.50 to 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00. Cash wire bars gained 12.50 to 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00.

## Commodities

**LEAD:** Cash and three months' futures were steady. Cash lead was 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00. Cash lead was 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00.

**WHEAT:** Cash and three months' futures were steady. Cash wheat was 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00. Cash wheat was 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00.

**SOYBEANS:** Cash and three months' futures were steady. Cash soybeans were 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00. Cash soybeans were 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00.

## Timetable of wheat pact talks agreed

The International Wheat Council (IWC) has agreed a timetable of future meetings that could result in a negotiating conference for a new International Wheat Agreement (IWA) by the end of February.

Mr Jean Parotte, executive secretary of the IWC, has given a report to the council on a preparatory group meeting early in November.

The council agreed that a special drafting group of 12 members of the council should meet next Monday to consider a second draft of a new international wheat or grain arrangement.

Following the publication of the IWC monthly market report, the council will review the world wheat situation in 1977 as well as looking at the outlook for 1978.

Mr Parotte's report said that there is a broad consensus that wheat stocks should be nationally held by importing and exporting countries and be in addition to minimum working stocks.

There is also consensus that the objectives of a new wheat trade convention—the proposed agreement—should be to give the greatest stability to world markets.

The two major points of discussion were whether the trade agreement should be limited to just wheat or include other grains and just what action should be taken when reserve stock release or accumulation fails to keep prices inside an agreed price range, it said.

## Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

US STRAIGHTS (\$)	Bid	Offer
Australia 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Australia 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Canada 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Canada 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
France 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
France 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Germany 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Germany 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Italy 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Italy 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Japan 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Japan 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Netherlands 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Netherlands 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Spain 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Spain 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Sweden 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Sweden 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Switzerland 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
Switzerland 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
UK 7 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00
UK 8 1/2 1984	100.00	100.00

## Wall Street

New York, Nov. 30.—Prices moved lower in slow early trading on the New York Stock Exchange today. Declines led advances about three-to-one.

Analysts had expected a continuation of Tuesday's falling price action in the first hour or so of trading. They also expected some hesitation in advance of President Carter's press conference.

On the plus side, the index of leading economic indicators rose 0.7 per cent in October.

## Cocoa down by 3.05c

New York, Nov. 30.—Cocoa futures closed 3.05c lower at 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00. Cocoa futures closed 3.05c lower at 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00.

## CHICAGO GRAINS

Chicago, Nov. 30.—Wheat futures closed 12.50c higher at 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00. Wheat futures closed 12.50c higher at 100.00, three months' futures 100.00, one month's futures 100.00.

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	7.5
Barclays Bank	7.5
Consolidated City	7.5
First London Secs	7.5
C. Hoare & Co.	7.5
Lloyds Bank	7.5
Midland Bank	7.5
Nat Westminster	7.5
Royal Bank	7.5
Shenley Trust	7.5
TSB	7.5
Williams & Glyn	7.5

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank 7.5, Barclays Bank 7.5, Consolidated City 7.5, First London Secs 7.5, C. Hoare & Co. 7.5, Lloyds Bank 7.5, Midland Bank 7.5, Nat Westminster 7.5, Royal Bank 7.5, Shenley Trust 7.5, TSB 7.5, Williams & Glyn 7.5.

## M. J. H. Highgate &amp; Co. Limited

The Over-the-Counter Market. Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited announce that on and after 1st December 1977 its base rate will be 7% per annum.

## Foreign Exchange

The Bank of England's view that interest rates are high enough to give the pound a modest boost on foreign exchanges yesterday. Sterling closed 22 points up at \$1.8170, after fluctuating between \$1.8130 and \$1.8195. The pound also followed the dollar up against the Swiss franc, enabling the effective exchange rate index to rise 0.2 to 63.5.

## Spot Position of Sterling

The dollar benefited from the remarks made by Dr Burns, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, about the dollar being a basically strong currency, and by suggestions that there are moves in the pipeline to boost the currency further.

## Discount market

There was a sizable underlying surplus of credit in the discount market yesterday. Unfortunately, much of it did not show until so late in the session that some houses were not able to turn it to their advantage. In fact, one or two houses had to borrow from the Bank of England, which gave a monetary loan overnight at MLR (7 per cent).

## Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 7 1/2 per cent. Treasury Bill 7 1/2 per cent. 3 months' Treasury Bill 7 1/2 per cent. 6 months' Treasury Bill 7 1/2 per cent. 12 months' Treasury Bill 7 1/2 per cent.

## Forward Levels

1 month 7 1/2 per cent. 3 months 7 1/2 per cent. 6 months 7 1/2 per cent. 12 months 7 1/2 per cent.

## Authorized Units, Insurance &amp; Offshore Funds

UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE
UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE	UNIT	PRICE



**Henry  
Butcher & Co**  
Incorporating  
**Leopold Farmer & Sons**

**Agents, Valuers  
and Surveyors**

**Property &  
Plant**

**London-Leeds-Birmingham**

**\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.**

## THE TIMES SHARE INDICES















## Motoring

## Russia's lonely drivers fend for themselves

A week spent in the Soviet Union looking at the car industry and driving conditions there has convinced me that there is something to be said after all for being a motorist in the West, traffic and petrol prices notwithstanding. With only five million cars among 250 million inhabitants, the Soviet Union is still in the pioneer stage of motoring and this is particularly true of the range and quality of services offered. Petrol stations, for instance, are rare enough to be specially marked on maps of Moscow and there are very few service and repair outlets.

Owners of the Lada (the Russian version of the Fiat 124) can call upon 12 main service centres in the city centre, plus 150 minor ones at a number of mobile units. No wonder that motorists are encouraged to their own servicing and repairs; it is that the car comes with such a comprehensive tool kit.

Spare parts are in such short supply at petroling is rare and Russian drivers often remove the windscreen before parking. If there is a breakdown, there is no friendly motorist organization to give help at the roadside.

Petrol may be cheap by Western standards but the cars are not. The Soviet motor industry deliberately argues high prices on the home market, knowing that demand for the limited number of cars available will exceed the supply. The 1500 Moskvich costs 6,800 rubles (roughly £1,100). This means that the average Moskvich owner would have to save every ruble he can for three and a half years to buy one. A comparable car in Britain costs, say, £2,500, or the equivalent of about nine months' earnings.

As in Britain after the war, the shortage of cars has meant that the car is a luxury item, and inevitably, a black market in second-hand cars is supposed to flourish through state-owned commission shops, which set the prices, but there is a private deal in which considerably more money changes hands.

Roads, apart from the main routes, are primitive. Only a fifth of the total network is surfaced. But the roads that are available are far less neglected than in the West and though a Moscow motorist is beginning to get concerned about traffic jams, nothing like the rush hour queues at build up in London or Paris.

Also, if and when Moscow does get car population equal to London's it would be in a much better position to cope. Almost all the arterial roads are dual carriageways, with three or four lanes each side, and there are numerous flyovers, tunnels and pedestrian passages. The road system has developed less than in the West, but it is not as bad as it looks. It is basically a network of roads, with spaces leading into the centre, and parking meters have not yet appeared. There is a nice legal point as to whether, since all land is owned by the state, they can be charged for leaving cars on the street.

Some traffic laws are much tougher than in Britain. Drivers are not permitted any alcohol, and the first offence means automatic loss of licence for two years, a fine of 30 rubles and a new driving test before the car is allowed back on the road.

Russia's new four-wheel drive hatchback, the Niva

being allowed back on the road. A second offence means disqualification for five years. The Russian breadwinner looks like a clinical thermometer and is known as the "yellow submarine" after the colour of the crystals, which turn blue if the motorist has been drinking. Mokhov and Shinkov, the inventors of the device, are said to be the Soviet motorist's least favourite people. The driving test is in three parts. First, there is a medical examination which includes checks on eyesight and heart condition. Then a theoretical examination, in which candidates sit at an illuminated panel setting out eight traffic problems and have to push buttons to indicate their answers. More than one wrong means failure, but the essential candidates go on to the driving section of the test, which may last only 10 minutes if the examiner is satisfied.

The preparation required for the test is enormous and includes 140 hours of technical instruction, 60 hours on the road, 20 on road safety, 15 on first aid and 33 of actual driving. The pass rate is said to be about 70 per cent, compared with less than half in Britain. One excellent idea is that road safety is a compulsory part of the school curriculum from the age of seven; the authorities are very keen to reduce the number of accidents among children. Seat belt wearing is compulsory and the overall speed limit is only 90 kilometres an hour (55 mph) on the main roads.

The Russians are reluctant to disclose road casualty figures. In Moscow there are said to be about 500 deaths a year, with a slight downward trend. In Greater London last year, 652 people were killed on the roads. For the Soviet Union as a whole, annual road deaths have been unofficially put at 45,000, which would be extraordinarily high in relation to the number of cars.

## Tough all-rounder

The latest product of the Soviet car industry is the Niva, a small four-wheel drive car which shares the same engine and gearbox as the Lada but is of entirely Russian design. With large wheels and a high ground clearance, it is a sort of miniature Land-Rover and intended for use on farms and in undeveloped country roads.

I briefly sampled the Niva on its proving ground and was impressed by the comfort over rough surfaces and its ability to cope with a ditch. The Niva is a useful feature, but there is a high tip and the rear suspension is a bit of a disappointment. But the vehicle is barely 13 feet long and has an excellent turning circle.

The 1.6 litre overhead camshaft engine gives modest acceleration, but this is hardly the essence; more relevantly, the Niva can carry cars and trailers up to 17 cwt. Production has only just started and is not expected to exceed 50,000 units a year by 1980. Nor is it planned to export the Niva at the moment, though Sierra Motors, which sell the Lada here,

would like to get it for the British market if the problem of converting to right-hand drive can be overcome. Certainly it would have some competition.

The other Russian car models are very old-fashioned by Western standards. The Lada is the most advanced and yet it is based on an obsolete Fiat introduced in 1966. The other car familiar to British motorists is the Moskvich, a medium-sized car of dubious handling which is no longer imported.

The smallest Russian car is the Zaporozhets, a two-door with a rear-mounted air-cooled engine that looks rather like the old NSU Prinz. The design has almost disappeared in the West and it was surprising to learn that the car still sells in countries like Italy and Austria.

The Soviet Volvo (their comparison, not mine) is the Volga, a 2.5 litre with the styling of a 1960s Chevrolet. It is widely used as a taxi. At the top of the range are the Chisla and Zil, huge black seven-seater limousines available only for official business (though their chauffeurs are not averse to giving unofficial taxi rides when not otherwise required).

As a passenger, I got to know the Chisla (the word means seagull) very well. It is a big, clumsy monster that looks and feels very much like an American car of the 1950s. With a heavy V8 engine, under-damped rear suspension and, judging by the driver's attempt to convert it even on a straight road, soggy steering.

The Zil is the Soviet equivalent of the Lincoln Continental, though it reminds you more of the 600 Mercedes. Some years ago, its production was known as the Zil. The last letter referred to Stalin, after whom the plant where the car is made was named. Now the factory bears the name of the first director, Likhachev, hence the "L" in Zil.

Colloquially, there is a four-wheel drive model among the Japanese Sabars which go on sale for the first time in Britain today. There are five models in sedan, coupe and estate form, sharing a 1600cc flat-four engine driving the front wheels, all-independent suspension and rack-and-pinion steering.

Four-wheel drive is available on the estate, which sports a central off-road vehicle for farmers, country vets and the hunting-clothing-fishing fraternity. At £3,697 it is the most expensive of the range, which starts at £2,597 for the two-door sedan. The styling of the cars is typically Japanese, distinguished by high windows and shallow windows and despite front-wheel drive—proclaimed on the outside of the car—the interior struck me as rather cramped. But I suspect that like other Japanese cars the Sabars will be sold more as a reliable vehicle than a pretty or a roomy one.

Peter Waymark

## Broadcasting

10 pm Chronicle tries to persuade us that we owe what we are to the Anglo-Saxons, rather than any other of this island's invaders. What about 1066 and all that?

30 pm This Week has a long-established knack of finding its own stories, away from the day-to-day headlines. Tonight it tells of a cure that has been found for women who batter their children or their husbands, or become alcoholics, just because of pre-menstrual tension.—I.R.R.

## BBC 1

10.00 On the Move, 12.45, 1.45, 1.50, Pebble Mill, 1.45, 1.50, Heads and Tails, 3.55, 4.00, Lippy Lion, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.







a Special Report on the diverse and far-flung regions which make up the federation

# NIGERIA

## Military men seek to clean out Augean stables

by Peter Hill

Empty oil drums, piled the gaps between the seven rough hewn stakes of a makeshift execution dais on Bar Beach.

The elite of Lagos who reside on Victoria Island and retreat to the curving expanse of sand at weekends to bathe and lounge in the sun have become inured to the crackle of rifle fire on a Saturday morning. Death by firing squad has become as much a part of life in Lagos as the appalling and senseless deaths in road accidents.

When executions take place thousands of people make the journey to Bar Beach to witness the fate that awaits any armed robber who is tracked down. But the extent to which these executions represent an effective deterrent rather than a spectacle is open to question. The armed robberies persist. Nigeria's military rulers, who are committed to establishing a "disciplined, fair, just and humane African society" in the country before they hand over power to a civilian regime in less than two years, are unlikely to halt the executions.

The next 18 months or so in the period to October 1979, when free elections are held for the first time since 1966, will be the most crucial and critical since the civil war which tore the country asunder.

Nigeria is a vast and populous nation and, thanks to oil, far richer than many of its neighbours on the African continent. But the gap between the haves and the have-nots, rather than closing, is perceptibly widening.

The Federal Military Government has taken steps to ensure that the ostentation which characterized the life-style of many of those

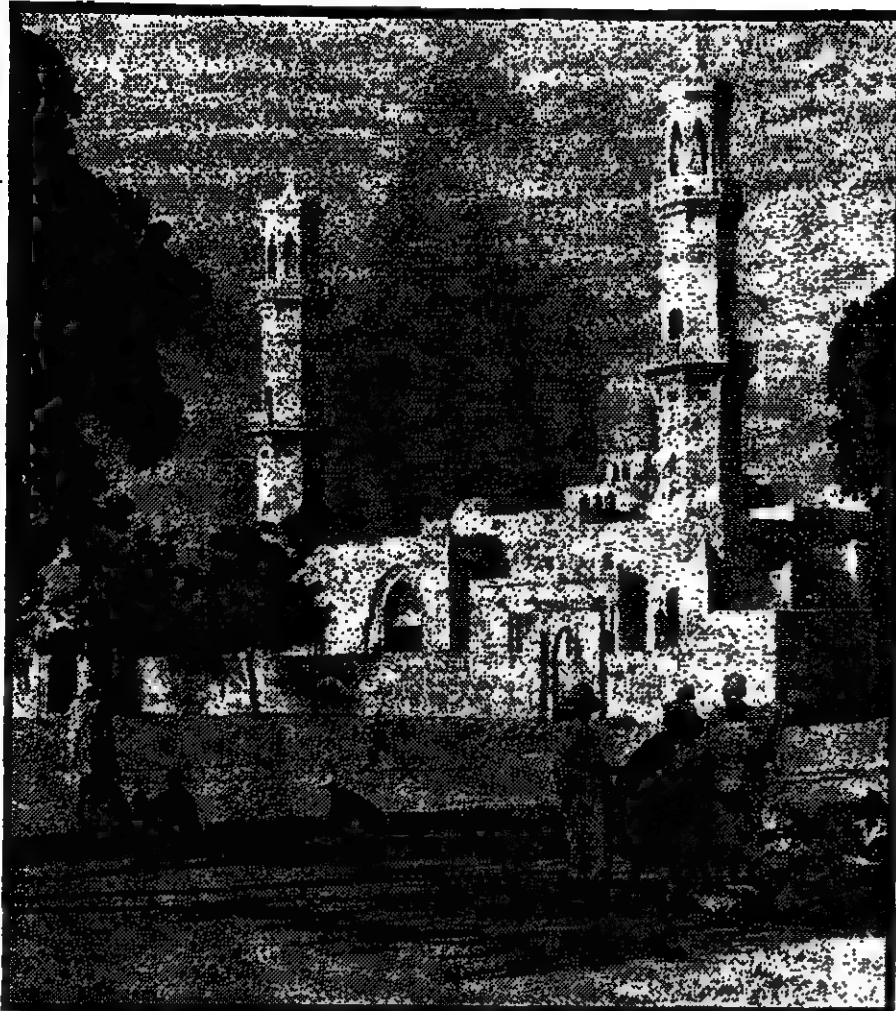
Nigerians who had become far on the back of the country's economic boom was contained.

The military men who assumed power after the deposing of General Gowon, and who were set back by the assassination of General Murtala Muhammad in February last year, have sought to bring about a new sense of direction in Nigeria. Under the Gowon regime the country had drifted. The third development plan, its vast spending programme linked to the expectation of steadily rising revenues from crude oil, was quickly undermined.

The scope and emphasis of the plan have since been reviewed and new priorities established. Because of inflation the plan will cost more to carry out and it is doubtful whether more than about 40 per cent of the projects will be completed before the end of the plan period in 1980.

The military men who govern Nigeria have by their words and actions sought to clean out the country's Augean stables. Chronic port congestion and the great recent scandal have been tackled purposefully and although there are still considerable shortcomings, the improvements have been marked.

Nigeria's Civil Service, a byword for inefficiency and corruption, has been purged with thousands of people being prematurely retired or dismissed, from lowly office messengers to top government officials. But the purges, which initially caught the public's attention and support (although not necessarily for the most altruistic reasons), have created a vacuum. Promotion prospects are brighter but experience has suffered as a result and corruption remains.



Scenes from regional life: an old mosque in Kano in the north and two men playing the game in Oyo in the west.

Indeed many consider that it is worse than ever. Certainly the soldiers who apply Nigeria's foreign exchange restrictions to the letter are still relieving departing travellers of surplus usha in transactions which take place in airport corners.

Local government reforms have been carried through, although the efficacy of this measure will not be appreciated until the return to civilian rule. New states have been created to an attempt to cut across tribal boundaries. Plans have been approved for the construction of a new Federal capital.

But the most important

feature of the regime of Lieutenant-General Olusegun Obasanjo, the Head of State, has been the commitment first spelt out by his predecessor, General Muhammad, for a return to civilian rule. General Gowon reneged on his promise to return the country to civilian government and paid for that decision. The present leaders appear totally committed to returning to the barracks and so far have adhered to the timetable.

A draft constitution has been introduced and the 200 members of the Constituent Assembly have been debating its provisions (and many other topics as well) since

the beginning of October. Political activity, however, remains proscribed until the beginning of October next year and the Obasanjo regime has made it perfectly clear that it does not intend to allow political parties and meetings to take place in advance of that date. This will be only 12 months before direct elections take place—no short a time in the view of many Nigerians to ensure that the civilian regime is as effective as many hope it will be.

In a government statement last month the regime noted: "It has been observed that some people have been organising political meetings

in the country under the guise of social associations, solidarity, unions and leaders of thought through which they engage in political activities." The official statement also observed that it had received word that Nigerians had been seeking alliances and making political contacts—activities that would not be allowed before the ban was lifted.

Clandestine meetings have taken place and will continue as the months tick by to October, 1978. Speakers in the Assembly have shown that they are prepared to speak out candidly on a wide range of topics. This has no doubt appealed to the 40

million or so electors who will cast their votes in October 1979.

In a country as diverse as Nigeria, where factionalism and tribalism are endemic, can any civilian regime survive for any length of time? Is black Africa's largest army—of more than 200,000 men—going to return quietly to the barracks and remain there after more than 12 years in power?

These fundamental questions cannot be answered with any degree of certainty. But most observers strongly believe that, by its actions so far, the Obasanjo regime remains committed to backing out of the limelight and

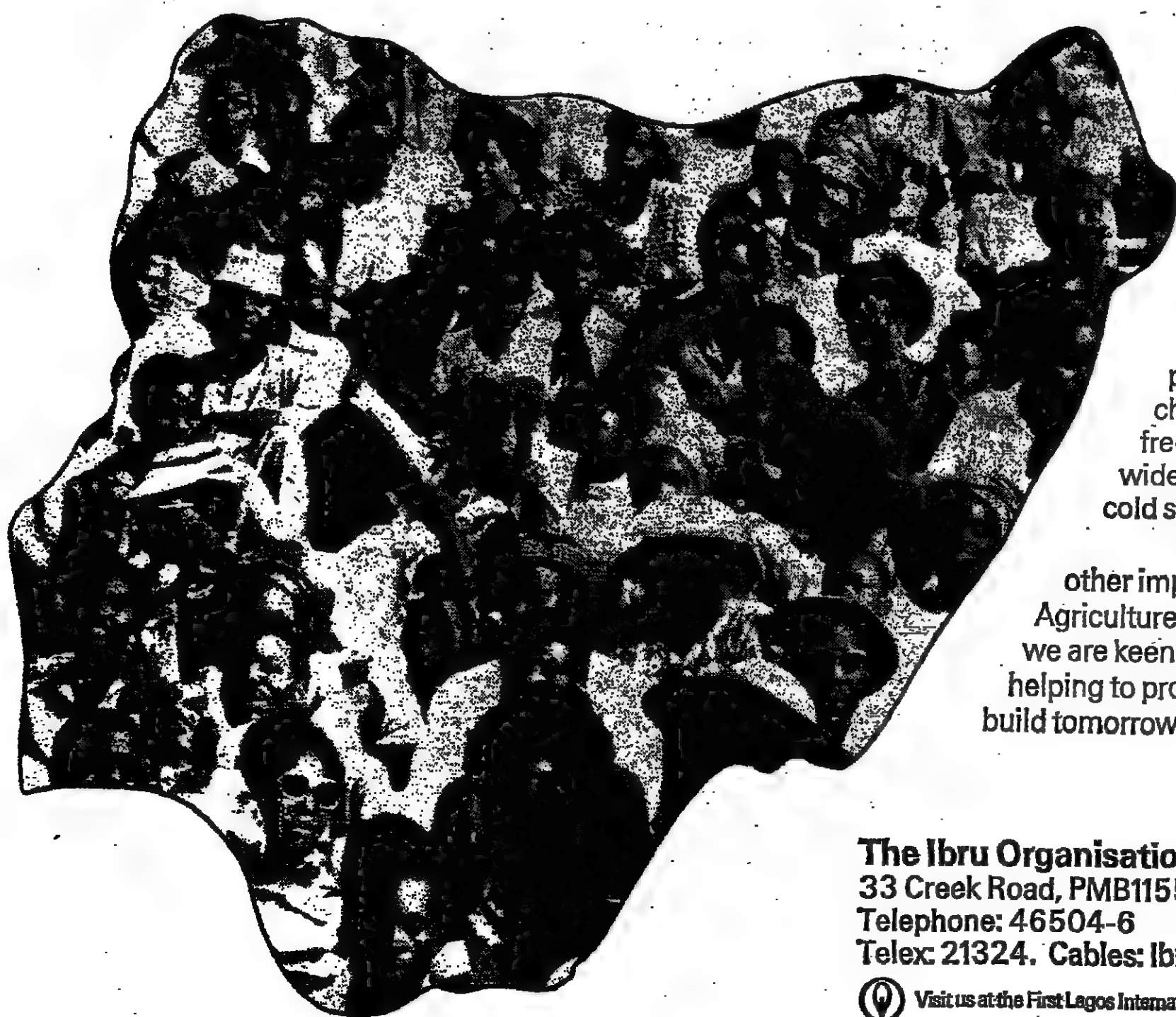
that the possibility of a return to military government could well act as a check against the excesses that characterized the Nigerian political scene immediately after independence.

Whether the tribal jealousies and rivalries can be effectively subsumed beneath the slogan "Nigeria first" is even more difficult to assess. Certainly tribal allegiances and identification remain strong. Typical comments from educated businessmen can perhaps best illustrate the difficulties. "My first allegiance is to my tribe", one Yoruba businessman said, while another confided that he put Nigeria

first and looked forward to the return of a democratically elected government—"provided that it is not dominated by northerners".

For the present, however, Nigeria's military rulers, who have increasingly become involved in foreign affairs, most notably over the future of Rhodesia and South Africa, have difficulties of their own to deal with at home. They include continuing high levels of inflation, balance of payments difficulties and the responsibility of forging ahead with the development plan, all of which will have to be shouldered by a civilian administration eventually.

## Moving ahead with people in mind



Today's efforts are building tomorrow's Nigeria, and the Ibru Organisation is proud to be able to make a major contribution to those efforts.

Over the years we have grown from a small trading company into one of the leading business operations in Nigeria, but we have kept in mind one basic fact—progress is about people.

We started with fish, and fish means protein. To bring this protein to the people cheaply, we pioneered a modern fishing and freezing industry in Nigeria, and to make it widely available we built up a comprehensive cold storage and distribution network.

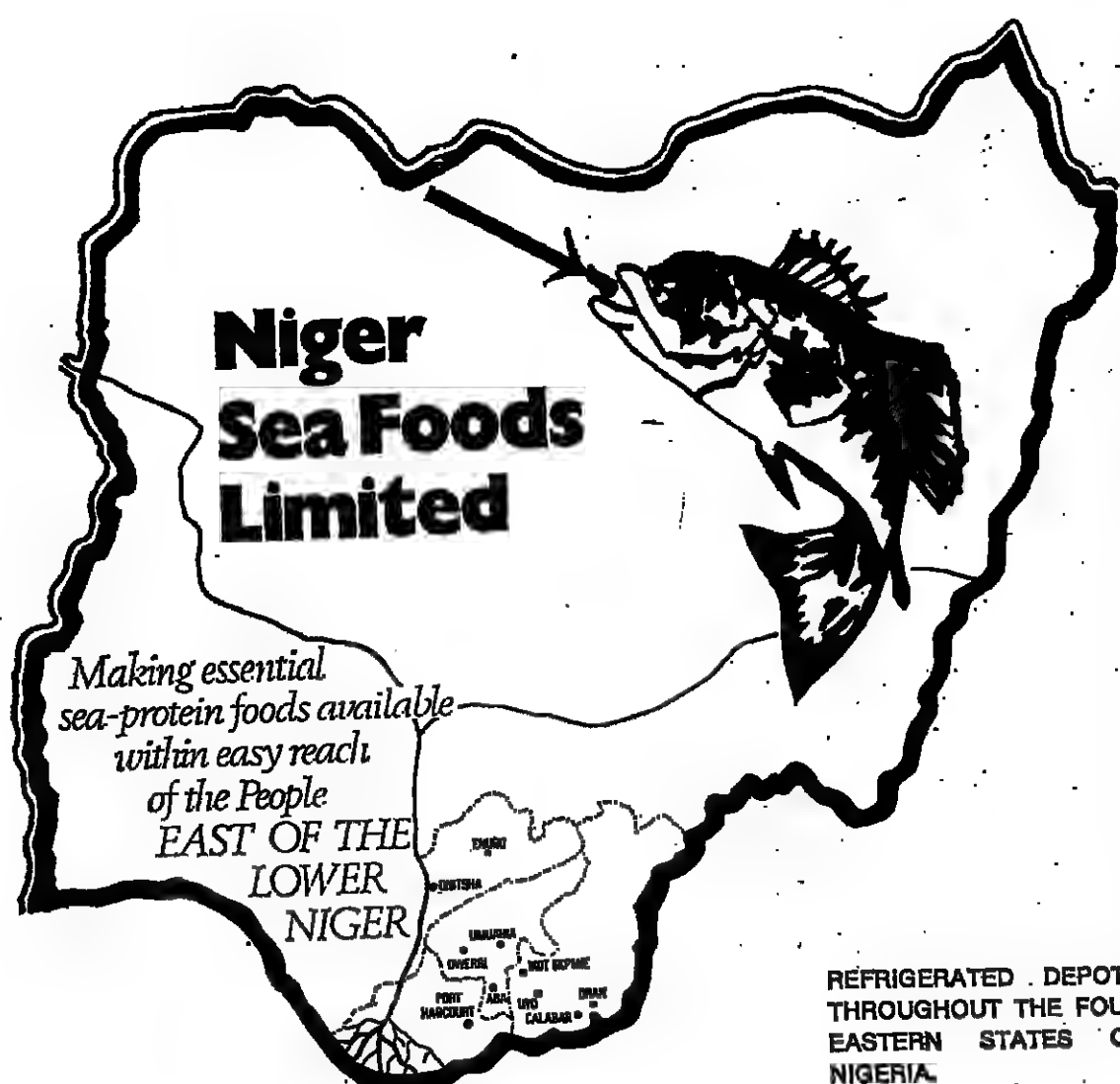
From this sound base we have moved into other important areas of activity; areas like Agriculture, Healthcare, Housing and Education and we are keen to pursue our role in today's Nigeria by helping to provide people with the basics they need to build tomorrow's Nigeria.

The Ibru Organisation  
33 Creek Road, PMB1155 Apapa, Lagos  
Telephone: 46504-6  
Telex: 21324. Cables: Ibru Lagos

Visit us at the First Lagos International Trade Fair

# IBRU





## Niger Sea Foods Limited

Making essential sea-protein foods available within easy reach of the People EAST OF THE LOWER NIGER

REFRIGERATED DEPOTS THROUGHOUT THE FOUR EASTERN STATES OF NIGERIA.

### NIGER SEA FOODS LTD.

PLOT 181 TRANS-AMADI INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

P.O. BOX, 1044 PORT HARCOURT

Phone: 21645, 21851, 21852

Cables: SEAFOODS PHARCOURT

Telex: 61158 (FISHER)

Lagos Liaison Office: 37 Awolowo Road, 14071, Southwest, Lagos

Cables: "Fishermen Lagos"

# FRIENDLINESS

WE ARE BUILDING A BANK ON IT



## PAN AFRICAN BANK LTD

All our Branches in addition to the operation of Current, Savings and Deposit Accounts, offer comprehensive coverage of international banking services including the establishment of documentary credits through extensive overseas connections.

Pan African Bank for friendly efficient service.

HEAD OFFICE: AZIKIWE ROAD, PORT HARCOURT  
branches throughout the rivers areas

LAGOS: 35/37 MARTINS STREET, LAGOS

KANO: 1 GALADIMA ROAD, KANO  
ONITSHA: 16 BRIGHT STREET, ONITSHA  
ABA: 20 ASA ROAD, ABA

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Reforms are crucial in return to civilian rule

by David Williams

Last December and January adult suffrage elections were held throughout the federation for local government bodies of a new kind—multi-purpose, single-tier institutions, which were to be called local government councils. The military regime regarded their establishment as a "crucial element in the political programme" for return to civilian rule, designed to "stimulate democratic self-government and to encourage initiative and leadership potential".

The new authorities have "complete and self-contained budgets" and can delegate specific functions to subordinate councils still financed entirely by the local governments. Subordinate councils are not another "tier" of government but are part of the same "tier" as the local governments.

To become both "effective and local", the Government decided, the new bodies should serve populations of between 150,000 and 600,000 people in the case of big towns. With populations of fewer than 150,000 in

300,000, staffing and overhead cost would be serious problems, while if authorities were too big they would produce big, sluggish bureaucracies.

It was recognized that population densities in some areas could be so low that state governments should be allowed to establish authorities covering fewer than 150,000 people, though only with the permission of Lagos. In most cases the authorities were to be coterminous with previous administrative divisions.

A wide range of functions is mandatory for the authorities and a wider range, such as agricultural extension work and primary education, can be given to them by the states. They are the only authorities now recognized below state level.

A proportion of members, some by virtue of traditional offices, can sit in the authorities, and in some northern states the governors have appointed the maximum number allowed.

Perhaps the biggest innovation is the abolition of "provincial and divisional administration"—the DO field administrative offices,

who in some states had in effect been running local government, while the ministers of local government or to the new authorities.

The British system of local government, whose introduction was so optimistically attempted in colonial days, is now to be supreme, even in northern states, where the emirate system is strong. Many of the emirates have been split into a number of self-contained local governments while smaller ones have joined others in a single authority.

In the emirates, however, the ancient system of district and village heads is wisely retained, thus giving traditional rulers and their councils some say in the appointment of members who are now key officials of the new local governments. But the French "prefectural" system, which under Nigerian states were tending to be abandoned, has been retained as a school for democracy and political responsibility.

So much importance did the soldiers attach to local government reform in a country where many experi-

ments have founded that they agreed on the new system even before the proposals of the committee on a new constitution had been presented. The system, however, is the result of wide consultation, among traditional rulers and conferences of state representatives.

Final implementation of the federal Government's proposal was the responsibility of state governments; Lagos did not want to impose any uniform system, but in the end Nigeria has a far more uniform system than seemed possible even a few years ago.

The reforms, however, were not meant to reduce the traditional functions of chiefs, but should help to preserve "the organic unity of our traditional institutions and societies", as the federal government guide-lines put it. Emirate and traditional councils, however, still have clear tasks, and the possibility of chiefs being "active" presidents of local governments, where a traditional area coincides with a new local government, is allowed.

"Excessive" politicking, the foreword to the guide-

lines says was one reason for local government failure in the past. The federal Government clearly hoped that this time local government councils would not become the playthings of parties, nor their staff and workers the prey of politicians.

No parties were allowed to operate in the elections to the local governments, which in some areas were "indirect". And as long as military rule lasts, parties can be kept out of local government. But the new authorities have wider functions and bigger funds than the old (the federal Government itself for the first time underwriting their expenditure). They will be more attractive for politicians than were the former councils.

A civilian government will not be able to impose any restriction on party politics. And many in Nigeria ask whether failure is endemic in modern local government in Nigeria. What will happen when the paternal protection of the soldiers disappears?

The author is editor, West Africa.

## NEW CAPITAL

### Expensive proposal may be cheaper in long run

One important decision taken by the military Government which its successor will have to implement is to move the federal capital from Lagos.

The decision was not taken just because of the city's famous traffic jams, which should soon be greatly eased, Lagos, it was decided, could not remain the federal capital for several other reasons.

For example, there is a shortage of over 300,000 houses; perhaps 300,000 people have no regular habitation. Some dwellings are little more than hovels and the occupants pay outrageous rents. Public transport is inadequate and costly.

The panel, under Mr Justice Aguda, set up by the Government to make recommendations for a site for a capital, noted that only a small part of Lagos "had any semblance of a modern sewage system"; to establish a system would require demolition of most buildings.

It was meant to serve Lagos was "one of the dirtiest capitals in the world". For several months each year "it becomes impossible for pedestrians to walk along some major streets... as water in the streets will be knee-deep". The city's topography makes surface draining very difficult. Only a completely new telephone system inside the city, requiring enormous structural alterations and even demolition, could improve communications.

Demand for water now exceeds that formerly protected for the year 2000. Food of all kinds, firewood, indigenous building materials, are all made more costly by the need to bring them to Lagos from far away.

The outstanding problem road.

of Lagos, however, is shortage of land for expansion. This makes enormously expensive reclamation of land necessary in the capital territory of a country which has some 355,000 sq miles.

If there were no other problems, Mr Justice Aguda's panel concluded, acquiring land immediately adjoining Lagos was now so expensive that even the dizzy cost of establishing a new capital would be less for bidding. Lagos will, however, remain the commercial centre and main port.

Why did the panel choose for a new capital an area south of the ancient town of Abuja, almost in the middle of Nigeria, in Niger state?

Criteria suggested by the panel for the capital territory, which embraces no fewer than 3,000 sq miles, included, first, "centrality" which the new site certainly has. Other qualifications were: health and climate; land availability; water supply; "multi-access possibilities"; security, existence of building materials locally; low population density; power resources; drainage; soil, physical planning convenience; "ethnic accord".

Climatically the new site shows a great improvement on Lagos, and it has agreeable scenery. The area is thinly populated; it is not intended to include in the capital territory the pleasant Abuja town, with its great tradition of craftsmanship (here Michael Cardew developed the great talent of the potter, Ladi Kwale).

A traditional potter's village in the north-west. Below: the Lagos airport

Water supply is adequate, as are land communications with the rest of Nigeria. Air communications could be established easily.

Local availability of building material will depend largely on uncompleted projects, such as the proposed iron and steel complex.

There should be no problem in bringing electric power, and the new capital could be provided both with a first-class external telecommunication system and good links with other parts of Nigeria. The new site also capital in the 10 to 15 years

passes the drainage test. "Ethnic accord" is a positive way of saying that the new capital should be outside the territory of any of Nigeria's main ethnic groups. The site is ideal in this respect as a great variety of small groups live in the area, which is actively one of the areas of Nigeria's principal peoples.

Cost remains the great problem. The panel observed that "a sizable portion of the national income" would be committed to building the capital in the 10 to 15 years

envisaged, but without a devastating effect on the economy as a whole. In fact, because of the need to spend vast sums in Lagos if the capital is not moved, and of the economic activity which building a new capital could foster, the panel argued that there was a "cost-advantage" in their plan.

Supporters of the new capital see in it a new political symbol for Nigeria. In the end that will be the real test.

D.W.



هذا من الاصل



On this and the next page Peter Hill examines steps to improve links with the outside world and between different parts of the country

## PORTS

### Bureaucracy rather than congestion now causes delays

A transformation has taken place in Lagos harbour. Two years ago the congestion at Nigeria's principal port was chronic; hundreds of ships swung at anchor for months, awaiting berths to unload their cargoes. Now, ships are busy day and night pushing lighters from ocean-going ships anchored to buoys in the harbour to the new Kikiri lighter terminal on Badagry Creek. The insatiable demand for goods that was created by the country's economic boom is much nearer being satisfied than seemed possible at the height of the standstill.

Priority continues to be given to increasing the efficiency of the port by building new facilities in the Lagos-Apapa area. One of the most spectacular improvements has been the construction of a new 10-berth facility at Tin Can Island on the creek, at a cost of N185m. Fifteen months ago the island was a swampy wilderness; now the new facility, with its warehouses and gleaming green cranes, is slowly moving into operation (although not as quickly as many shipping companies would like) and further relieving pressure on the port.

Recently Lagos-Apapa — with more than 70 berths — has been handling more than 700,000 tonnes of cargo a month. When Tin Can Island is fully operational the figure is expected to rise to some one million tonnes a month. Nearly 50 per cent of the cargoes are being discharged in lighters, the traditional method of cargo handling at Lagos-Apapa.

The Nigerian Ports Authority, which faced the task of alleviating the choking of the port in the wake of the great cement scandal, has achieved substantial progress. But purges among its staff, as in other branches of the Civil Service in Nigeria in the campaign

against corruption, have left their mark. Promotion prospects have been enhanced, but often people selected to fill middle management positions lack the necessary skills and a vacuum is created, which is already showing signs of producing further difficulties. The Tin Can Island development, undertaken by West German civil engineering contractors, at present lacks back-up facilities and customs clearance, and this hampers its effective use.

The shipping and forwarding industry complains that the NPA is now so pre-occupied with the number of ships waiting to unload that officials do not take account of the type of vessels involved in the hold-up. There is evidence that because of fears about further congestion, the NPA is refusing the issue of ships entry notices to both conference and non-conference lines in an endeavour to keep the number of ships at anchor at a level acceptable to the Government. The ship's entry notice system is acknowledged to be a reasonable way of restoring order — provided it is organized and deployed sensibly. But because of the present policy a number of ships bound for Lagos-Apapa have been forced to anchor off other ports on the coast while waiting for the NPA to issue the notice.

Ship operators are also concerned about the increase in piracy in the waters around Lagos-Apapa.

The International Transport Workers' Federation urged its 360 affiliated organizations in 80 countries to recommend a boycott of Nigerian ports until the situation improved. The International Shipping Federation and the British foreign office called for effective steps to ensure the safety of ships and crews in Nigerian waters.

Further development of the Apapa port complex is under way. By next May a third wharf extension, involving the construction of a quay 1,000 metres long, with a water depth of 13.5 metres and 200,000 sq ft of storage space, is due for completion. An estimated N75m is being spent on the project. It will include the provision of six additional berths and a new container terminal designed to meet the needs of a business that has expanded rapidly in the past 10 years. In 1968 the port handled 182 containers but in 1975-76 it dealt with nearly 23,000 and the traffic continues to increase. At present about 97 per cent of container cargoes handled by Nigerian ports go through Apapa quays, the balance through Warri and Port Harcourt.

The new container berth will be equipped with modern handling facilities and will be served both by road and rail transport. Other development projects are under way at Port Harcourt, the country's second largest port, which handles about 15 per cent of Nigeria's foreign trade, excluding oil shipments. Port Harcourt, which lies on a bend in the Bonny river 75 kilometres from the sea, has eight berths, one of which is used solely for loading coal.

Under the third development plan four new berths along a further 1,000 metres of quay are to be built at a cost of N40m.

The present port complex covers 47 hectares and is provided with both road and rail connections. There are transit sheds and four modern warehouses, and the total storage area amounts to about 41,000 sq metres.

Some of Nigeria's smaller ports are also expanding. At Warri, 126km from Escravos Bay, a 160-metre long wharf can accommodate two deep



Apapa docks, Lagos. The new terminal has gone a long way to relieve the congestion.

sea ships, but four more berths are to be constructed by 1980 at a cost of N27m. At Koko on the Benue river N15m is to be spent on building five new berths and a fish and shrimp terminal. Facilities at Calabar, which lies 91km from the main entrance channel of the

\*£1=1.82 naira.

## ROADS, RAILWAYS

### A high price for relieving clogged arteries

The traffic congestion of Lagos and the interminable delays are still far from being a feature of the past despite the construction of new elevated roads designed to siphon traffic from the central area. Passenger cars and commercial vehicles clog the main arterial roads in and out of the major conurbations.

As the Nigerian economy has boomed, so has the development of road transport to a point where saturation has been reached. Added to which, the gross inefficiency of the railway system, with relatively short journeys taking much longer than they should because of the narrow-gauge single track, has led Nigeria's emergent industries to funnel much of their freight business on to the roads.

A main feature of the country's third development plan is expenditure on improving both the road and rail facilities of the huge country. Throughout the federation some 12,000km of roads are being built. About 7,000km are represented by projects which have been commissioned as part of the current plan (1975-80), while design teams are working on the preparation of a further 13,000km.

The cost of these projects alone is N3,400m, while the total planned capital expenditure on road construction during the five-year period is about N6,000m on the basis of the estimates contained in the revised projects of the plan.

Overall, the federal government is responsible for the planning, design and construction of some 27,000km of primary roads, which includes 16,000km of roads which have been taken over by the federal authorities from various state governments. Under

their direction, the state governments are responsible for nearly 70,000km of secondary roads and feeder roads which link to the main primary roads.

A central feature of the planned road development programme, according to Mr M. T. Usman, permanent secretary at the Federal Ministry of Works, is to achieve coordinated development, national integration and economic efficiency.

Considerable spending is also scheduled to take place on the construction of by-passes in three dozen urban centres and the construction of flyovers and elevated crossings to alleviate traffic density in the centre of the major cities. Under the plan, the 19 state governments will be working on 19,000 km of roads in their areas, which is expected to cost close to N1,000m.

About half the road development taking place in the states is devoted to the construction of main feeder links to the federal road network. The result of the developments which are scheduled — and the magnitude of the task makes their completion in the present plan period most unlikely — will be a comprehensive road system much better equipped to meet the demands which are being made upon it.

The railway system which was laid down in the dying years of the nineteenth century has suffered from lack of investment funds for many years and the poor use of the system has meant that it has been unable to generate sufficient funds to bring about the improvements which are desperately needed. The industry too has suffered from being unable to attract sufficient manpower with administrative ability.

The system — which was built in the shape of a large letter H to link the pre-

dominantly agricultural northern regions to the coastal belt — has considerable potential. But the fact that it can take 30 hours to travel along the single narrow gauge track from Lagos to Kaduna, compared with a little over one hour by inter-nal air service, does not commend itself to the growing number of travellers.

The NRC is also involved in replacing and expanding its rolling stock. Britain's Crown Agents prepared specification and tender documents for 55 main line locomotives which last year led to a £20m contract being placed with General Electric and General Motors of the United States. Twenty diesel electric shunting locos have been ordered from Brush Electrical Machines.

NRC is also involved in attempting to woo back to the railways the commuters of Lagos, most of whom travel by car or by buses operated by private and state organizations.

For Nigeria this is a novel concept. The plan is that four-coach diesel trains each capable of accommodating 550 passengers will ply between Apapa and the main Lagos terminal at Iddo. The planned routes will merge outside Lagos and continue to the Murtala Muhammed airport at Ikeja 10 miles along the track, stopping at six stations. Tenders for the supply of the equipment are expected to be invited shortly.

Meanwhile there is speculation that the management of the railway system may be let on a contract basis to a foreign company. Three countries — India, Hungary and France — are the front runners. The favourite is India, which recently signed a cooperation agreement with Nigeria through Rail India Technical and Economic Services. It is understood that the contract, which would last for between three and five years, would involve the supervision of the planned conversion to standard gauge coupled with a reorganization of the corporation's management and general administrative systems.

#### Big benefit in opening up hinterland

Nevertheless, the 3,505km of 3ft 6in track remains a major benefit in the opening up of the hinterland and, it is hoped, in diverting an increasing quantity of road freight to the railways, both in terms of exports from the hinterland and imports which are required to support the industrial service developments under way in the states.

The third plan calls for the laying of standard gauge system along 960km of track as well as the construction of viaducts, tunnels and six bridges at a total cost of nearly N500m.

Already this year the Nigerian Railway Corporation has let design and site investigation contracts for two priority sections of track improvement. The Paris-based firm of Fugère, which leads a consortium including Laing International, is carrying out preliminary work on the section between Port Harcourt and Makurdi. Another group, Italcant of Italy, has been charged with the preliminary work on a new section of line which will link Orukpe with Ajeokun, the site of a new steelworks. The Brazilian company of Hidroservice has been given a contract for the

# FIVE YEARS FIFTEEN BRANCHES AFROTEC

THE FASTEST GROWING CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DEALERS IN AFRICA

Afrotec Technical Services, Nigeria Limited has grown to a substantial size in a relatively short time and earned a reputation for its ability to adapt orthodox European business methods to suit the more rumbustious environment of Nigerian commerce. Through six specialist sales divisions and from fifteen offices/service centres the company supplies a complete service, starting with an evaluation of

the needs of a prospective customer and the comparative cost effectiveness of the equipment, through to a fast and efficient back up service on behalf of its principals.

The 1977 POR independent report on major dealers ranks Afrotec highest in Nigeria for service, efficiency, speed and parts availability — the result of Afrotec's policy of placing special emphasis on training and manpower.

Head office:  
PMB 1061  
Oshodi  
Lagos State  
Nigeria  
Cables: Afroman Lagos  
Telephone: 45656/44706

Branches:  
Lagos  
Kano

Port-Harcourt  
Jos  
Kaduna  
Enugu  
Yola  
Maiduguri  
Benin  
Ilorin  
Ibadan  
Makurdi  
Owerri

Calabar  
Sokoto

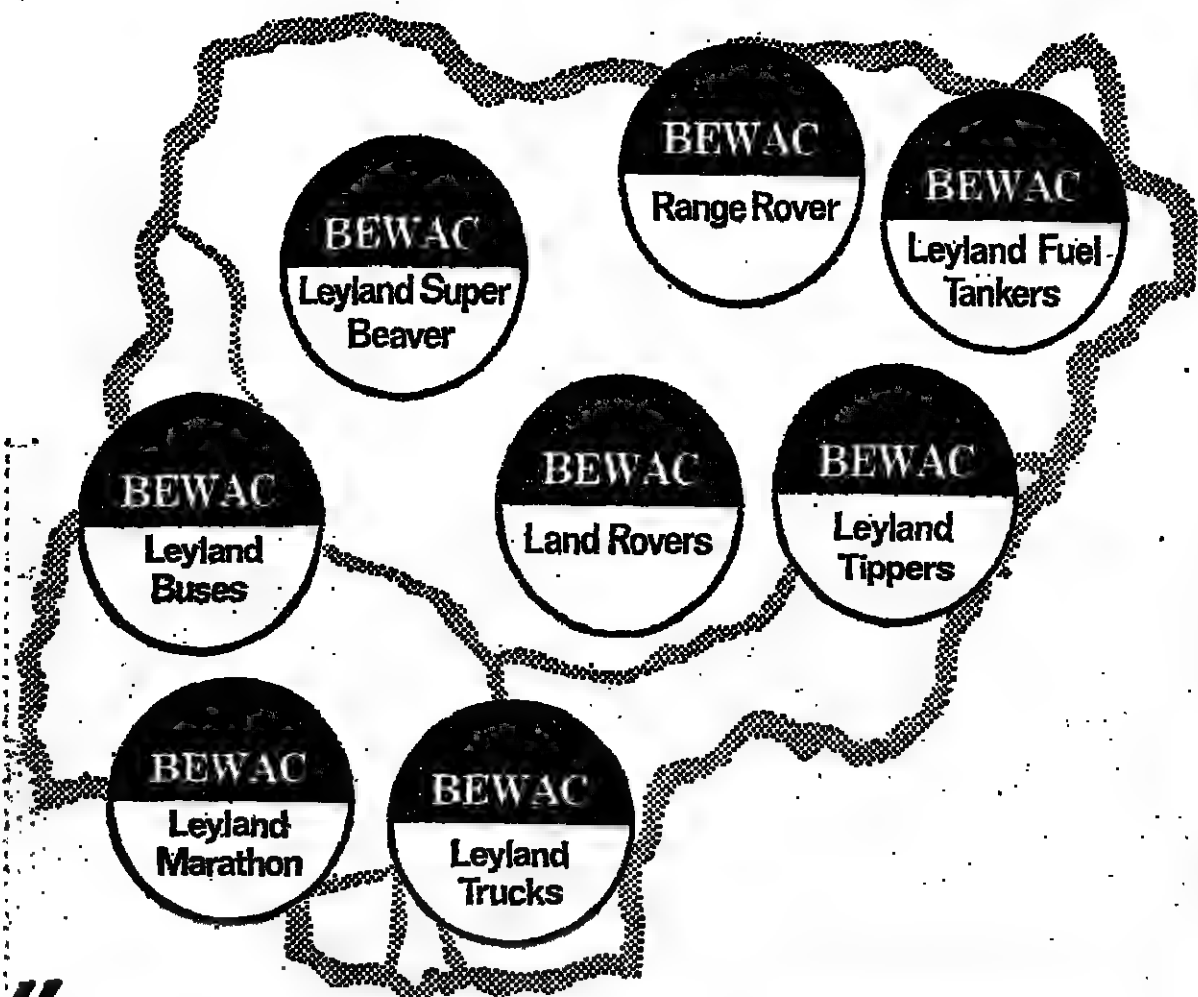
Major agencies held:  
F Parker  
NIS Marketing Ltd  
Cement & Steel  
Coronet  
Wickham  
Welding Industries Ltd  
Liner

Sambron  
Blaw Knox  
RayGo  
Bunce  
Simplon  
Dawson-Keith  
Sigmund Pulsometer  
Pumps  
Wallis & Stevens  
Bray  
Interimco



**AFROTEC**  
MOVES WITH NIGERIA





**"We proudly represent...  
...Leyland Products, Land Rover, Range Rover,  
Leyland Trucks & Buses"**

For more than a generation BEWAC has been setting the pace as the largest distributor in Nigeria of British Leyland products.

A performance that has helped both

great nations.

A performance that we are proud to be associated with.

**BEWAC**

Branches at:  
Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Jos, Maiduguri,  
Ibadan, Benin, Warri, Bauchi, Abuja,  
Port-Harcourt.  
SALES AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT NIGERIA



**The first sign of Nigeria's  
own commercial vehicle industry**

Leyland Nigeria are the first of four companies busily developing the progressive truck manufacturing programme in Nigeria. The Ibadan factory will be first to get its production line rolling before the end of 1978.

This is bound to add to Nigeria's wealth and provide more jobs and training opportunities for Nigerians.

It will also mean that as a manufacturer actually making commercial vehicles in Nigeria, Leyland will be able to develop an even better understanding of Nigerian conditions and the specifications needed to cope with them.

Leyland are already a lot further down this road than other manufacturers in the market, because the Land Rover has been hard at work in Nigeria for over 20 years.

Many of the lessons it has learnt the hard way have been built into every Leyland. Giving the whole Nigerian range the Land Rover qualities of reliability, economy and durability.

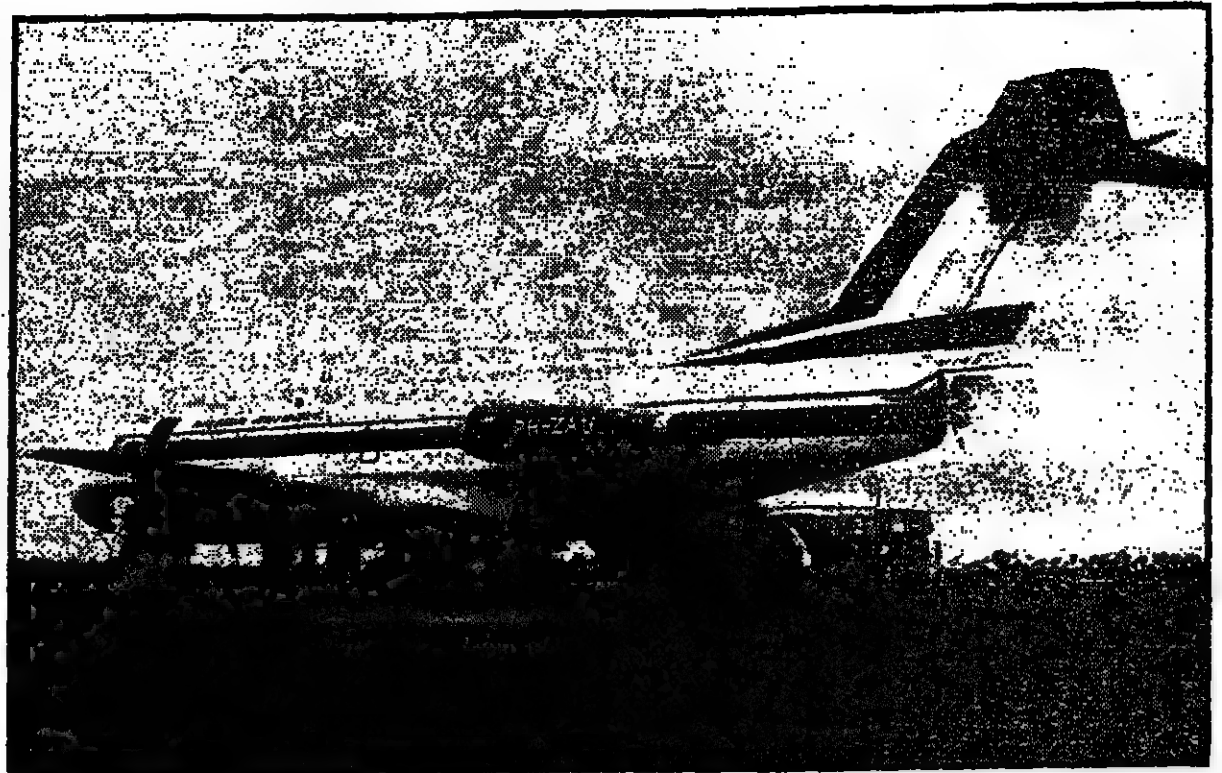
That's why we say there's a little bit of Land Rover in every Leyland.

**Leyland Nigeria**

Leyland Nigeria For Austin, Morris, Land Rover, Range Rover and Albion.

## AVIATION

### Spending their way out of chaos



A Fokker being fuelled at Murtala Muhammad airport, which will be able to take supersonic aircraft when development work is completed.

Murtala Muhammad airport may appear to passengers to be a chaotic nightmare, but it has improved. The shortcomings and difficulties of Nigeria's principal airport, 15 miles from Lagos, have been recognized and next year should see the opening of a new airport. It became all too apparent some years ago that the existing facilities could not possibly cope with the flood of passengers. When the developments are completed in 1979 rather than 1978, the airport will be able to accommodate not only the 747s that international airlines are using increasingly, but also supersonic aircraft. The projects which have been implemented form part of a comprehensive and ambitious plan for the country's airport and general aviation development, involving construction of new airports and improving existing facilities.

Under the revised spending limits of the third national development plan covering 1975-80, N700m has been allocated for the development of airport facilities throughout the country. Earlier this year, Dr William Osoigbo, Federal Commissioner for Aviation, disclosed that N400m had been committed and of that about half had been paid for work done.

Apart from the developments at Lagos, six other airports, at Port Harcourt, Maiduguri, Kano, Kaduna, Sokoto, and Ibadan, are being improved to a standard which will enable them to accommodate jumbo jets. Airports at Calabar, Enugu, Jos, Benin, Ibadan and Yola are being redeveloped to enable 737 size aircraft to land, and other improvements are planned at Zaria, Gusau and Warri.

Completion of the planned developments will produce one of the most comprehensive internal airline networks in Africa and provide

links to international destinations from deepest Nigeria.

At Lagos, the main focus of the development programme is the gateway to the country, the long overdue improvements to what must have ranked as one of the most uncomfortable terminal facilities in the world, have been delayed as a result of shortages of essential equipment in the initial phases. Apart from the physical improvements, the aircraft is being equipped with radar and associated aircraft handling and control facilities. The acute shortage of hotel accom-

modation should also be partially alleviated by the construction of a hotel.

The secondary runway at Kano has been lengthened and strengthened to cope with the expected increase in traffic. The new layout at Ibadan is designed in such a way that it will provide an alternative to Murtala Muhammad airport. Planned developments at Port Harcourt, the centre of Nigeria's oil industry, have been hampered by bad weather, the poor sub-soil and the lack of access to the new airport site, compounded by difficulties in

the financial management of the project.

Nigeria's network of internal routes is considerable, with flights operated by Nigeria Airways established nearly 20 years ago after the dissolution of West African Airways (Nigeria) in 1958. The state-owned undertaking owns a fleet of more than 20 aircraft, including seven F27s and seven F28s, two Boeing 707s, two DC10s and a number of other short and medium-range jets. Last year the fleet was more than doubled and this year it has grown by half again. However, the introduction

of new aircraft has so far not led to any marked improvement in the reliability of several of the company's internal flights. Nigeria Airways has become synonymous with poor service and chaotic organization.

Long-suffering internal travellers question the wisdom of operating half-empty flights to a growing number of international destinations. Perhaps the introduction of a second force—an independent airline—would provide the spur for improved service by the state corporation.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### Phones get priority in big development plan

Scores of foreign technicians are working desperately with their Nigerian counterparts to revive the country's overloaded and largely obsolete telecommunications links both within the country and with the world outside.

The vicissitudes of Nigeria's telephone system are legion. Telephones go silent and often remain so for months; contact over even short distances becomes impossible. Often, to find that the telephone is working is cause for jubilation.

Most of the faults can be attributed to shortages of adequately trained staff, overloaded and antiquated equipment, and disruptions caused by the widespread civil engineering projects which are under way throughout the country. Significant efforts are, however, being made to redress the shortcomings. When the present modernization programme is completed, Nigeria will possess one of the most comprehensive telecommunications systems in the world.

Existing density of telephones is equivalent to one per thousand of the country's huge population—one of the lowest density rates in the world—and the network is largely manually operated. Much of the exchange equipment is nearly 30 years old and fewer than 50 locations have automatic equipment.

But under the provisions of the revised third national development plan a total of N1,300m is being committed to improving the telecommunications network. Nigeria's military rulers have placed great emphasis on the development of the communications service, embracing both the postal and telecommunications operations.

On the postal side the Federal Military Government is to spend N125m on new post office buildings and more than 8,000 new postal agencies are to be used as mobile post offices on 43 routes in different parts of the country.

But it is in the telecommunications sector that the bulk of the expenditure will occur. At the end of 1976, connections were let for the installation of automatic exchanges at more than 50 important locations. GEC's subsidiary, Telephone Cables, is working on a multi-million pound contract to install a telephone cable network in the northern part of Nigeria in 41 towns covering an area larger than England, Scotland and Wales.

This year it is expected that as a result of the improvements already made,

the telephone density will rise to three per thousand of the population. Between next year and 1980 nearly 300,000 new lines are scheduled to be linked to the existing network. This will boost the number of lines to 750,000, lifting the density to ten per thousand of the population.

The longer-term plan calls for a further increase in line capacity in the period to 1985 to a total of 2,500,000, which would place Nigeria broadly on a par with the average world level growth rate in telephone density.

Communications with the outside world feature prominently in the revised plan. A second submarine cable & Wireless is providing a new submarine telephone cable to link Lagos with the world network.

It is also planned to build a second submarine structure at the communications satellite earth station at Landate which is designed to extend direct communications with other parts of the world. Completion of the work will enable the station to extend its coverage to nearly two-thirds of the global surface and enable substantial improvements to be achieved in telephone capabilities of the Nigerian External Telecommunications (NET). At present NET relies on routing its telephone traffic to eastern countries through switching centres in Europe. Additional equipment is to be installed at the station to serve the Indian Ocean area.

There are also plans for the construction of a second satellite earth station in the Northern Region of Nigeria which will be equipped with facilities for handling traffic for public telephone, telex, telegraph services and international television programmes.

Emphasis is also being placed on upgrading telex switching centres, and computerized telex exchange facilities are to be installed in Lagos to increase the international trunk capacity from about 80 to more than 300. In the north of the country a similar computerized facility is to be introduced at the proposed new telex switching centre, which will provide a direct link with the nearest large centre in the country's telex network.

A further N5m is to be spent on the provision of automatic switching facilities in Lagos for public and private telegraph services and to connect the circuits via satellite, shortwave radio or microwave links to other telegraph centres and which will also be able to handle transit traffic between countries.



Passengers arriving at a terminal. There are plans to develop seven airports to create a comprehensive internal network.

## Our branches spread throughout Nigeria

**...our connections go  
round the world**

We're the longest-established and the largest indigenous bank in Nigeria, with 57 branches at strategic places nationwide.

Besides, we have an International Banking Division in Lagos which co-ordinates our international business operations, using for this purpose our Overseas Branch at Head Office and our London Branch at 240 Bishopsgate.

And what has Nigeria to offer? A population of over 70 million—a gross National Revenue in excess of N5 billion per annum—a Development Programme planned to involve an expenditure of N40 billion between 1975 and 1980, (a large part of which is earmarked for private investment, local and foreign). Indeed, Nigeria—with its booming economy and the increasing purchasing power of its people—provides an excellent export market for innovative ideas and competitively priced goods of all kinds.

We, at National Bank, are in an ideal position to give you the services you need when you're doing business in Nigeria, with Nigeria or for Nigeria.

Naturally, we provide a complete banking service. But more than this we can advise you on all facets of Nigerian business, do all we can to help you achieve your objectives. With our experience, our wide spread branch coverage coupled with our detailed understanding of the Nigerian market and knowledge of local contacts, we believe we can help you whatever your business requirements.

**Facilities for collection, Foreign Exchange and Letters of Credit,  
Mail and Telegraphic Transfers, Status Reports and  
Trade Enquiries, Produce Trade.**

For business with Nigeria through Nigeria or for Nigeria, contact us at National Bank of Nigeria Limited.  
\* Our experience is at your service  
\* Our network your advantage

**NATIONAL BANK OF NIGERIA LIMITED**

**Lagos Address:**  
National Bank of Nigeria Limited  
International Banking Division  
240 Bishopsgate  
Lagos, NIGERIA  
Telephone: 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 23



This and the following five pages contain profiles of nine regions throughout the country

## IBADAN

## Beggars flow downstream against the tide of cars

by Richard Thomas

*...a splash of red and gold—flung and caught among seven, like broken china in the sun.*

John Pepper Clark, in this poem of 1960, captured the dusty streets, the rusting, glistening tin roofs and the gleaming sunshine of Ibadan. It remains an accurate snapshot today. On one of these hills the Premier Hotel disdains association with the town below. Viewed from the hotel's anonymous modernity the sea of brown rooftops surges without relief. A million and a half people crowd Ibadan with their needs, making it the largest indigenous city in Africa.

A key commercial, economic and intellectual centre in Nigeria, this central Yoruba town is now capital of Oyo state. Aware of its importance, the city struggles to outlive its inhabitants with their noisy and dirty haunts, their affluence and filth.

The roads of Ibadan have succumbed to the people. Beggars and street sellers flow downstream against the tide of cars, lapping at one car window after another, thrusting brushes, id bags, pants and pegs, id sweat-soaked palms at the sweating occupants. Each market the wife is heard in raucous departure, and their rivers about in competition is price for travel.

But the people have compensated Ibadan for their senses; they have attracted the publishers, the major commercial and manufacturing companies, the Kingsway towers and the British Council; they have inspired the university, the Institute of Church and Society; they have nurtured the woodworkers and the cloth-makers.

It has not always been so. The traditional Yoruba states were Ife and Oyo. In the early nineteenth century the Yoruba kings fell out and a long period of civil disorder ensued. This was exacerbated by

the Muslim Fulani from the north whose advance south stopped the Yoruba from raiding the middle belt for slaves, and caused them to raid each other instead. Groups of bandits roamed Yorubaland and around 1829 a group set up camp in what was to become Ibadan. The camp became a rallying point and a place of safety for the refugees, both from the civil wars and from the Fulani incursions into Oyo.

Gradually it was established as the Yoruba military headquarters from which resistance against the Fulani was mounted. In 1853 the town had 17 miles of protective walls and its population grew rapidly to 60,000. By the time it came under British rule in 1893, the population had risen to about 120,000.

The success of Ibadan was based on a number of factors. The hills in and around the town provided good look-out points; the protective walls were defensible and thus encouraged more people to settle in Ibadan; and luck perhaps had sided it sufficiently far into the high forest that Fulani horsemen were discouraged from mounting an attack on it. The population used Ibadan as a fortified village whence they would journey to their farms outside the walls during the day. Indeed, it is still referred to as a great village, and about a fifth of the inhabitants still work as farmers, travelling out of their farms whenever necessary.

Ibadan was not a traditional Yoruba centre, although it had long had a traditional chief, called the Olofin, and its inhabitants felt willing to experiment with change. They had great emphasis on modernity; they were ready to adopt their life-styles and to become involved with trade and commerce. They also accepted the Western educational system, brought by the British, and Ibadan became (like Abeokuta, another refugee town) an educational centre.

However, it did not quickly become a political centre. Despite its preeminence as a trading centre it was ruled by Oyo from 1900, when Southern Nigeria was put



Smiles all round: whether it is selling onions or sharing the one desk at a crowded village school near Ibadan.

under British protection, and growing economic significance encouraged settled immigration. "Strangers' quarters" were established; the Nupe and people from the Hausa and Fulani traders at Sabo, and people from the east of Nigeria at Eketedo. These areas are today a mile or two from the traditional walled centre of the town which is around Mapo Hall, and they separate it from the railway line which runs to the west of the old town.

During the early part of the twentieth century, Ibadan had grown rapidly. The railway arrived from Lagos in 1901 and the first trunk road in Nigeria was built from Ibadan to Oyo in 1905. This has moved the economic centre of gravity a little to the west of the old city. An outer ring of administrative, military, and educational establishments has developed around the old town and commercial area.

The old parliament buildings and the secretariat are to the north-east, and beyond them are the airport and the university. To the north-west are the main power station and the main army barracks.

As Ibadan has expanded so has its population, and the population of the region it administers. In 1953, the region contained about six million people (which included the mid-west); by 1963 this had risen to about 10 million. Oyo state today has a population of more than five million people, making it the most populous state after Kano. In Ibadan itself there were 460,000 people in 1953 and 530,000 in 1963. In addition, in 1963, there was a rural population of more than 300,000 in a 20-mile radius. Within the eight and a half square miles contained by the old

city walls, the population density is about 54,000 a square mile, giving an average of 24 people to a house and as many as 100 to a compound.

The Yorubas' ready acceptance of new ideas and technologies and the demand for a whole range of goods and services, which a city of Ibadan's size generates, has created thousands of small-scale factories and workshops all around the city. Tailors and woodworkers abound on every street and the demands of the mechanical age have fostered the development of hundreds of small engineering workshops which repair cars, lorries, bicycles, and motor cycles. The earliest big factory in Ibadan was the Nigerian Tobacco Company cigarette factory, which opened in 1937. It was followed by the

Nipol plastics industry, the Lafia cannery and a tyre re-treading factory. The success of these ventures and the burgeoning Nigerian economy have encouraged a number of British firms to go to Ibadan rather than other centres such as Lagos. Perhaps the best known of these firms is British Leyland which is now building a massive plant in Ibadan for the production of Land Rovers and Range Rovers; others include Telford International, a British construction firm which has been awarded a multi-million pound contract to build the Ibadan ringroad.

In some ways the future of Ibadan is uncertain; as the capital of a smaller state it has lost some of its power and a number of its senior administrators have gone to run other states. But

it will probably prosper if it continues to invest in education, improving its services, and encouraging industry and agriculture. The basic services are there, the people are willing and able, the soil is fertile, and the commercial and industrial sectors are continuing to expand.

Ibadan has developed as a major intellectual and cultural centre. There is a large and important university and a polytechnic which between them have the two best bookshops in Nigeria. There is a teaching hospital and a number of research institutions such as Moor Plantation and the Forestry Research Institute.

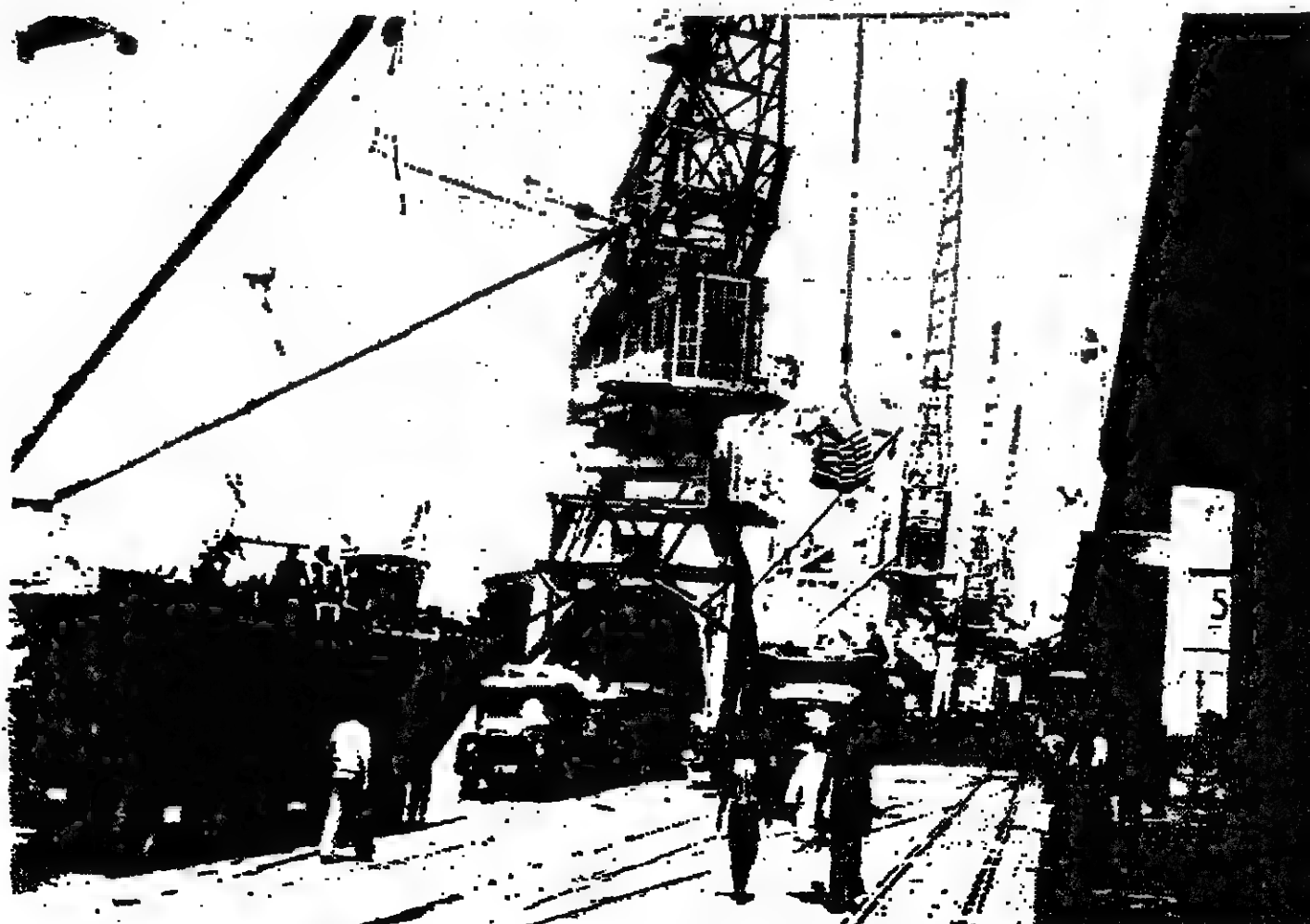
Because of the preeminence of the university, a number of leading British publishers have located their Nigerian headquarters in Ibadan. One publisher, Evans, now generates more sales and profits in Nigeria than in the United Kingdom. The Cordon Press was set up in Ibadan in 1956.

At the artistic level Ibadan can compete with any city in Nigeria. Traditional dyeing, weaving, and embroidery are still popular, and woodworkers such as the Fakays produce articles of high quality. The chapel doors of the university are a fine example of the relief style of wood carving and near the university is the Dominican community housed in impressive buildings designed by Demas Nwoko.

The author, formerly a teacher in Western State, is a lecturer in African studies at the Centre for International Briefing, Farnham Castle.

# NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY

*— gateway to the nation's economy*



### NIGERIAN PORTS ARE DEVELOPING

The third wharf extension to Apapa Port will be equipped with a Container Terminal and three conventional berths.

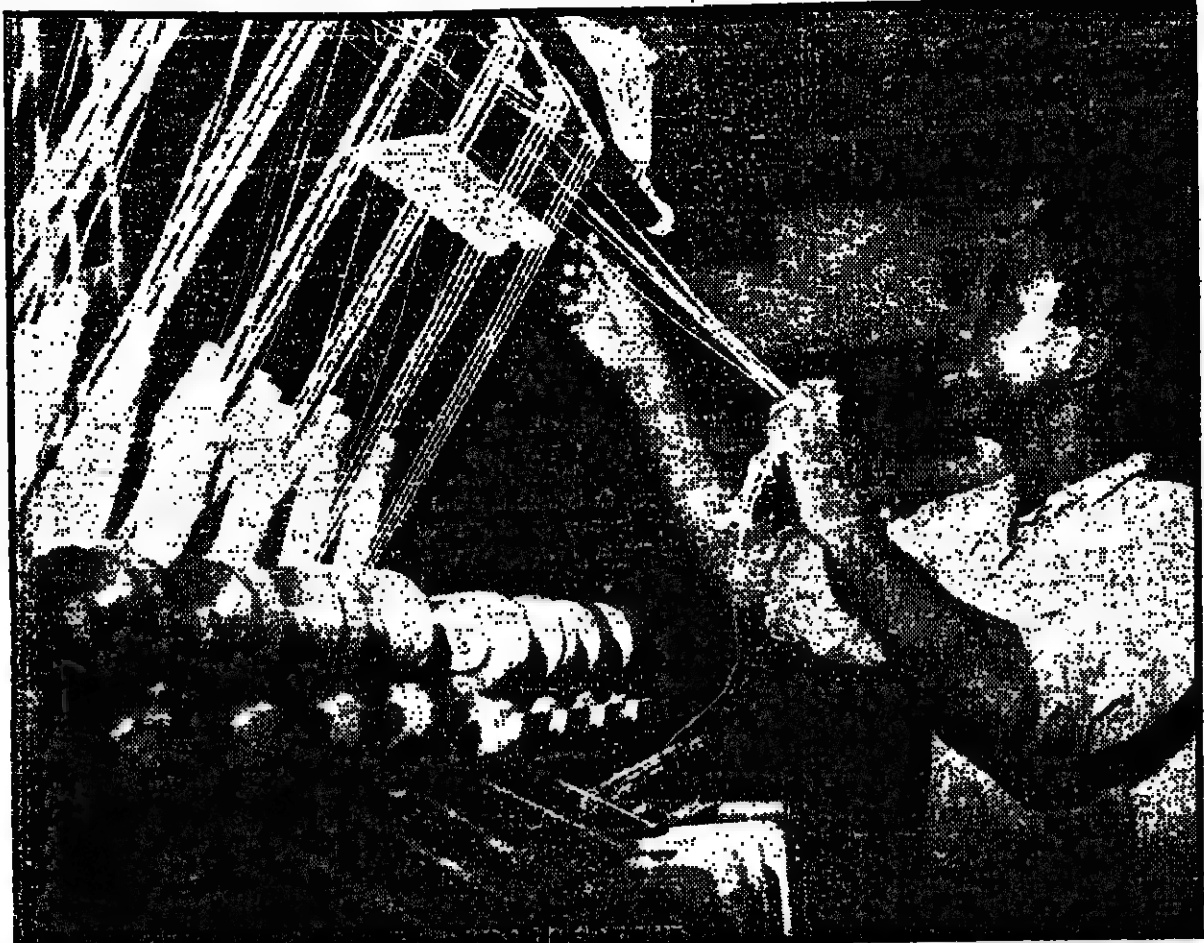
The new wharf at Tin Can Island has ten berths and a dockyard for repairs of small crafts and pilot launches.

Port Harcourt wharf will have fifty additional berths; Warri Port six new berths and Calabar Port will have four berths at the new site.

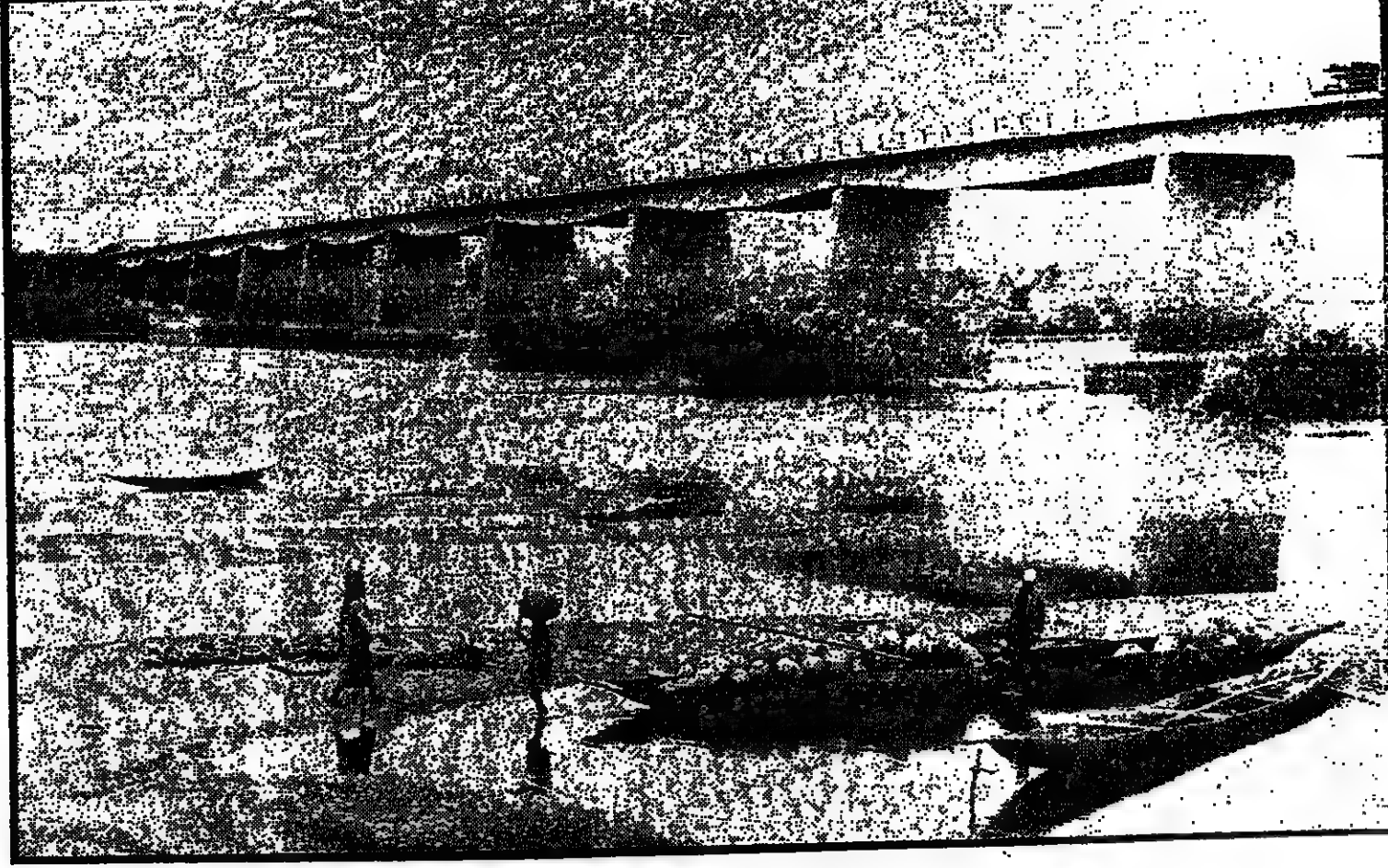
*marching forward with industrial advancement*

HEADQUARTERS: 26/28 MARINA, LAGOS. PHONE: 55020





Cotton-spinning in Kano. This ancient, mud-walled city is now an industrial centre. Right: the Wuya bridge over the Kaduna river.



## KANO

### Ancient caravan terminus reflects national diversity

by Peter Hill

Outside the mud walls of the old city, traffic pours along the wide roads of the new Kano. Modern office blocks rise starkly. The cacophony of car horns and thunder of heavy lorries mixes with the braying of mules and the bleating of goats. Proud, robed men from the desert stride along the carriageways, swords slung casually over shoulders.

Kano, capital of the most populous of Nigeria's 19

states—the heart of the north—is a city of charm, character, culture and commerce; a city where ancient and modern blend into one but manage to preserve their originality.

Within the old walled city the Emir's palace stands imposingly over the sandy esplanade. Not far away lies the sprawling, teeming Kurni market, the commercial centre of the old city, where thousands of traders hawk a bewildering variety of wares. The market has been the centre of commercial activity in Kano for centuries. It was from here

that the great camel caravans began and ended their long journeys across the Sahara and the wide expanse of West Africa.

Along its narrow alleys traders sit asking visitors to look at fine leatherware, fruit and highly honed swords and daggers. At the centre of this Aladdin's Cave is the money market where, despite the rigours of Nigeria's foreign exchange regulations, the traders are prepared to haggle and barter over transactions in most currencies.

Kano, perhaps more than any other major Nigerian city, reflects the wide diversity of cultural and

ethnic differences which exist within the federation. Its people and those six million to seven million people who live outside the metropolitan area in the bush which makes up most of Kano state's 16,650 sq miles, are predominantly Hausa, followers of Islam.

For centuries the four emirates of Kano state (itself less than ten years old) — Kano, Hadejia, Kassarau and Gumel—have been the main influences on the life of the people. The Emir of Kano has played the most formative role in terms of local politics and the development of local institutions but now he and

his followers are having to reconcile themselves to further change. The reform of local government a year ago has meant the handing over of a considerable number of services to a locally elected council. The Emir's role is the subject of further debate as the nation prepares for a return to civilian rule in 1979.

Kano state is heavily dependent on federal government assistance, particularly since the state's most important product, groundnuts, is in decline. About 80 per cent of the population is directly dependent on agriculture and its ancillary industries of fishing, forestry and stock raising. Crops include cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, rice, fruit, vegetables and, increasingly, wheat, production of which is being expanded by the construction of new irrigation systems.

Considerable attention is being paid to the improvement of agriculture to provide not only employment but also to meet the needs of a growing population and to generate income from exports. In the present five-year development programme (1975-80) N4.6m is being spent on forestry with a further N1.6m on fisheries and nearly N2.5m on livestock and veterinary facilities.

General agricultural schemes, including irrigation, will account for a massive N142.5m over the plan's term.

Earlier this year the first phase of the Hadejia-Jam'are River project was contracted out at a cost of N66.8m. The project involves the construction of both branch and distributory canals and irrigation facilities for 22,000 hectares. When the three phases of the project have been completed an estimated 57,000 hectares will have been brought within the irrigation system for growing groundnuts, vegetables, sorghum, cotton, maize, wheat and rice.

Attention is also being paid to restoring the state's former preeminence as a producer of groundnuts and encouraging the cultivation of other crops. In the present five-year plan nearly 50,000 tons of fertilizer are to be supplied to local peasant farmers while a tractor hire scheme is being substantially expanded.

This year the Kano state budget will involve recurrent expenditure of almost N200m compared with N74m the previous year and a rise in capital spending from N120m in 1976-77 to N257m this year, although there will be an increased capital deficit of some N57m.

Industrial development is not being neglected. Kano is already the centre for a number of industries ranging from cosmetics and perfumes to brewing and textiles. But with an estimated three million people living within a radius of 50 miles of Kano there is clearly considerable scope for industrial expansion. One of the most recent newcomers is Britain's Raleigh cycle company, a subsidiary of T. I. Raleigh Industries, which established its cycle factory in Kano two years ago.

The Kano plant has been producing cycles at two and a half times its design volume to keep pace with demand. Two months ago the company announced a major expansion programme costing N4m to keep pace with demand in the next decade, against the background of a 50 per cent rise in annual sales since the plant was established.

Last year Kano state received applications from 34 private sector concerns representing a total investment of about N20m in industry, which will employ about 6,000 people in the production of wood and furniture, textiles and chemical engineering. Consideration is being given to the construction of a glass factory and work is continuing on the development of new industrial estates.

Dusk is falling as the polo ponies thunder across the parched turf of Kaduna racecourse. The shouts of British military advisers and wealthy Nigerian businessmen echo across the field as the final chukka draws to its close. The hum of conversation from the polo club

Over in the golf club the expatriates—Japanese, German and British—call tall tales of the party the night before and forthcoming leave.

A stranger might be forgiven for thinking that nothing has changed much in Kaduna since Nigeria became independent and the city lost its position as capital of Northern Nigeria. Its wide streets and carefully cultivated gardens, its architecture and its atmosphere remain quintessentially British.

#### Central position ensures city's future

Kaduna was established by Lord Lugard as the capital of Northern Nigeria and in the gardens which carry his name, a small iron bridge, built in Aberdeen, shipped to Lagos and transported overland, straddles a small creek which feeds into the river Kaduna—the Hausa plural for the crocodiles which once lurked in its murky waters.

The city which Lugard founded is now the administrative capital of Kaduna state, an area which covers about 27,000 sq miles of tropical savannah whose tem-

## KADUNA

### A colonial relic in the throes of change

perate climate attracted the colonial settlers and administrators. With an airport being extended to international standards, good roads spreading out to the main towns in other parts of Nigeria, and an important rail junction, Kaduna's central position will ensure that it continues to play an important role in the development of Nigeria.

Kaduna is the centre of the textile industry and although its commercial importance is not as great as that of Kano, its industries are growing in importance. There are seven textile mills employing about 20,000 people and it is reckoned that the industry supports over 200,000 people in the area. It was established at Kaduna because of the cotton and availability of water and manpower. Annual output has reached about 280 million square metres. Recently a polypropylene plant was established and silk production has been introduced.

A number of other industrial developments have taken place in recent years. One of the most important is the Peugeot assembly plant, a joint government-Peugeot venture on the outskirts of the city. The plant daily assembles 90 cars which are flown in from France to Kano and then transported by road. The air transport was necessary because of the congestion at Lagos-Apapa. The plant is now being expanded to produce 220 cars a day by 1980.

Earlier this year a contract was signed for the design and construction of an oil refinery at Kaduna. The refinery is due to be completed in 1980 and will have a daily capacity for refining 100,000 barrels of crude oil. It will produce gas for cooking, two grades of petrol, fuel oil, kerosene, wax and asphalt.

The refinery is planned to alleviate the chronic fuel

shortages which bedevil the world's fifth largest crude oil producer. Japan's Chiyoda Chemical Engineering and Construction Company is building the complex which will receive its crude oil from a pipeline linked to the Warri refinery. Initially the line will provide petroleum products from the Warri refinery for distribution in the Kaduna area.

Efforts are being made to attract both large and small-scale industries to Kaduna state. In the past few months the state government, in cooperation with local business interests, has completed plans for establishing a variety of industries including plastics, galvanised steel and soft drinks.

The emphasis of this year's N383.3m budget for Kaduna state is on the development of education. The state has the fourth largest population in Nigeria—four million—and is fifth largest in area.

#### Agriculture still important

The economy is still largely dependent on agriculture, which produces a wide variety of crops, including peppers, yams, cassava, rice, cotton, groundnuts, maize and guinea corn. Considerable potential for tobacco growing exists although production is restricted by the requirements of local processors. There are export opportunities however.

With its central position and pleasant climate, Kaduna faces the future with confidence. Plans for the development of the new federal capital at Abuja, not far away, will have an impact on the further development of Kaduna itself as a base for building the new city.

P.H.

## Nigeria—Growing market, booming economy.



### You gain 50 years marketing and manufacturing experience in Nigeria by talking to A.C.C.

No other company can offer such a wealth of experience of the Nigerian market.

Well Established, progressive, independent.

A.C.C. is an independent business with 50 years of association with and in Nigeria: its present management is vigorously following a corporate policy of expansion and diversification.

Not just importers A.C.C. successfully handle the products of many important principals from overseas (Quaker Oats, Heinz, Thermos) but the strength of the company lies in its expanding manufacturing

activities in Nigeria itself.

A.C.C. manufacture established branded goods such as Trebor Confectionery, Chesebrough Ponds Vaseline and cosmetics, and own-brand non-ethical pharmaceuticals.

An A.C.C. plastics plant supplies containers for its products. A.C.C. has also recently diversified into the supply of building materials.

#### Distribution of Products

A.C.C. has a fleet of vehicles which supply a country-wide network of vigorous Nigerian distributors from its factories in Apapa and Depots in Kano and Onitsha.

Talk to A.C.C. first

A.C.C. has the right combination of experience and enterprise to help you establish your product in a fast growing market that's full of potential.

### A.C.Christlieb

(Nigeria) Limited

50 years of marketing and manufacturing experience in Nigeria.

35, Creek Road, P.O. Box 392, Apapa, Lagos—Nigeria. Telephone: 44768/9/70 Cable: Christlieb, Apapa.



## INTERNATIONAL BANK for WEST AFRICA LTD

94 Broad Street, P.M.B. 12021, LAGOS

tel: 23347; 57535 telex: 213451 BWANG

Branches: Kano, Kaduna, Warri, Maiduguri, Gumel, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Aba, Benin

an affiliate of Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique Occidentale.

9, Avenue de Messine, Paris-8eme. Postal Address: BP 89-08-75360 Paris Cedex 08.

Telex: Bancafri Paris 65.339 'A' & 65.339 'B'. Cables: Bancafric. Telephone: 766.52.70.

هكذا من الاصل



## PORT HARCOURT

### An unenviable reputation for lawlessness

Port Harcourt, capital of Rivers state, Nigeria's second largest port and operational centre for much of the oil industry, has achieved a reputation for lawlessness and a major police campaign is under way to halt the state of armed robberies. Citizens must observe a midnight to 5 am curfew imposed by the military governor in an attempt to check armed gangs.

Early last month soldiers and mobile police clashed in Port Harcourt after an incident at the airport involving an army officer and the mobile police. A police sergeant was shot dead. A week later a gang of armed robbers mounted a road block on one of the main roads leading to the city at dusk. More than 50 vehicles were stopped and an estimated 800 people found themselves forced to hand over money and possessions.

Rivers is a huge state of about 28,000 sq km and its creeks and swamps provide excellent bases for the robber bands. Port Harcourt itself, a sprawling city, provides the focal point for much of the state's industrial activity although a large number of the 1,700,000 population (1963 census) make their living from farming and fishing. New federal and state government office blocks have been built since the civil war and most of the buildings damaged during the war have been rebuilt.

The capital boasts a college of science and technology and a new university college is being built. Industries within the city's boundaries include boat building, aluminium products and the manufacture of soft drinks, tyres, soap and cigarettes. But it is the oil industry which is pre-eminent.

All the major oil companies in Nigeria have their headquarters in Port Harcourt. Rivers is the leading oil-producing state in the federation accounting for nearly 50 per cent of all production. Two jetties have been built for oil exports.

Oil has placed considerable strains on the city's hotels although it has been alleviated to some extent by the completion of a new hotel and an extension to Presidential Hotel, which will be ready for occupation next year.

But the oil and gas industry and the revenues which flow from it have produced other strains and tensions. Rivers receives more a head from federal revenue than other states but the questions of derivation and the pressure for even greater allocation are likely to

remain issues for some considerable time. The oil industry has provided the motive power for Nigeria's ambitious third national development plan. But since the plan was drawn up three years ago it quickly became apparent that the spending levels which were projected for industrial and associated development based on increased oil revenues could not be met. Crude oil output, in fact, reached a peak of 2,300,000 barrels daily in October, 1974, but fell to 1,500,000 barrels in May, 1975. Just two months after the plan was launched.

In the same period the posted price of Nigeria low sulphur light crude also fell and seriously undermined financial calculations.

Production increased to about 2,580,000 barrels a day in May this year but has since fallen back and in September amounted to 2,027,000 barrels. It dropped to about 1,800,000 barrels in October. Nigeria's oil is considered overpriced compared with other light low sulphur crudes produced in Algeria, Indonesia and Libya. The relative overpricing has been compounded by a glut of this type of oil, partly as a result of increased flows from the North Sea, whose oil is very similar to the crude produced from Nigerian fields.

Oil experts in Nigeria, however, reckon that a daily

production of between 1,800,000 and 1,900,000 barrels is probably about the right volume in terms of providing a level of revenue which is commensurate with the realistic targets and ambitions of the national development plan. It is now estimated that oil revenue in 1977 will be about \$3,900m against earlier estimates of about \$10,300m.

The high cost of exploration and development in the difficult terrain of Nigeria's principal oil-producing regions has cut back margins for the oil companies and in the past two years there has been a marked decline in exploration.

It was against this background that the oil companies were awaiting the announcement of new incentives to stimulate exploration and development at the end of last year. They were not disappointed. The Government produced a package of incentives which oil industry observers in Lagos consider will lead to a doubling and possibly a tripling of oil exploration and development next year.

The measures are also expected to lead to the development of marginal fields which have been discovered but under prevailing conditions were not considered economic to exploit. The package, which will apply retrospectively from April 1 this year, involves companies being allowed to

amortise their investment outlays in five equal annual instalments, although 1 per cent of each asset must be retained in the books until the Government authorises disposal.

Companies which have found oil receive a capital investment tax credit of 5 per cent for land operations and up to 10 per cent for operations in offshore areas in water depths up to 100 metres, rising to 20 per cent for offshore operations in water up to 200 metres. Costs of all exploratory drilling and the first two test wells on each field under the new provisions will be fully offset against tax while companies which have just begun production will be taxed at 65.75 per cent until preproduction costs have been amortised. Finally, the Government has said that the existing 20 per cent royalty will be retained for offshore operations but will be reduced to 18.5 per cent for production from offshore wells in water depths up to 100ft, and 16.5 per cent in depths of more than 100ft.

Shell/BP, which operates in partnership with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, is the largest producing company in Nigeria and as a direct result of the new measures it has bought an exploration rig back into operation.

The company is planning to bring on stream a new field near Nembe Creek,

which lies some distance away from existing fields in the delta area. Two other fields are scheduled for production by about the middle of next year. One of the fields, Opobo, is to the east of Bonny and is slightly offshore and the second, Utraspata, lies in the delta swamps.

Meanwhile, there will be a further surge in the development of Port Harcourt over the next few years as the NNPC, with Shell-BP and three other foreign oil companies, begin work on the first stages of the construction of a massive new gas liquefaction plant on the banks of the Bonny river.

Two projects have been under discussion for some years and it now appears that the rival parties have agreed to the construction of a single plant, with the Federal Government holding a 50 per cent stake in the venture.

It is estimated the project will cost more than \$4,500m and ultimately will have a daily throughput of some 1,500 million cu ft of gas being shipped to the United States and Europe.

Some of the gas produced and piped to the Bonny terminal will be destined for a new petrochemical complex to be built at Port Harcourt. At present Nigeria flares the bulk of the associated gas which is a massive waste of energy.

P.H.



Workers on an oil rig. Port Harcourt is the operational centre for much of the country's oil industry.

## ANAMBRA AND IMO

### Division produces new breed of Ibo entrepreneurs

by Sam Uba

If the division of Nigeria into 12 states in May 1967 was the Gowon master stroke that killed Biafra before it was born and ensured the survival of the Nigerian federation, the further splitting of the predominantly Ibo Central-Eastern state into two—Anambra and Imo states—in February 1976 must be seen as the one act that has eliminated from the Nigerian psyche the bogey of Ibo domination.

Not only are the Ibos pleased with the split, but in each of the new states there are powerful elements demanding further divisions. In Anambra, for example, there is agitation for a Wawa state to embrace Enugu, the present capital of Anambra state, and its neighbouring districts, and for an Idemili state for Oritsha and adjoining divisions, which are regarded as having an educational eminence and economic superiority over the other areas of the state.

Similar demands have also been voiced in Imo state by some leaders of the Nwa and Aro peoples. The common complaint in Imo state is against "Aro imperialism", which dates back to before the British colonial era when the Aros were the principal slave dealers in the Ibo hinterland.

Those demands show that contrary to popular belief, Ibo solidarity is more superficial than real. Ibo unity was a myth created by some ambitious Ibo politicians in the colonial era and fostered by their rivals from other ethnic groups.

Other Nigerians, especially the Hausas and Yorubas, their main rivals for power in the first republic, never

realized that there was no love lost between the various Ibo groups and that their internal wranglings and jealousies were more intense and bitter than could be found among other ethnic groups in the country.

Ibo desire for unity coupled with their feeling of insecurity led them to found tribal unions which, in turn, led others to suspect that the Ibos were operating cabals to dominate Nigeria. Fear of the Ibos was the main factor that united the other Nigerians during the civil war just as fear of the other groups was the element that helped to prolong Ibo resistance.

Until the late Murtala Muhammed enacted the decree carving out seven more states from Gowon's original 12, there was still the fear that the Ibos would soon reemerge as a dominant influence, if not in politics, at least in commerce and industry.

The Ibos are not keen to return to the political limelight. Although well-known Ibo politicians such as Dr K. O. Mbadie, Dr J. O. U. Okezie, Dr H. U. Nzeribe, Mr C. C. Onoh and promising newcomers such as Chief Joudouji and ex-colonel Hilary Njoku have been returned to the Constituent Assembly now considering Nigeria's new constitution for a return to civilian rule, it is generally accepted that no Ibo is seriously in the running for federal leadership.

The race for the presidency is going to be between the Yorubas and Hausas and the minority ethnic groups. But Ibos could well become the kingmakers because contestants for supreme office would be canvassing them for support.

The immediate concern of the Ibos remains the rebuilding of their war-shattered

economy. They have accepted military defeat gracefully—and their conquerors have been magnanimous in their victory—and are quickly regaining their old confidence. Most of the pre-war industries in the heartland of Biafra, which suffered the worst devastation in the war, were reactivated within five years of the end of the war in 1970.

Among the war-damaged industries that are back in full production are the Nigeria Construction and Furniture Company at Enugu; Textile Printers at Onitsha; Nigeria Cement Company, Nkalagu; Nigeria Steel Company at Emema; near Enugu; Independence Brewery at Umuhia; Aba Textile Mills at Aba; Modern Ceramics at Umuhia and Modern Shoes Industry at Owerri.

In the past two years new industries and factories have been springing up everywhere. Elsewhere in the country, the Ibos are active in the road haulage business and in the service industries.

As in the past, Lagos is again teeming with Ibo clerks and artisans and the high streets are again being dominated by Ibo-owned lock-up shops and stalls. The Ibos are also in public relations, advertising and business and industrial consultancy. Most of the new periodicals and magazines in Nigeria are either owned by Ibos or are edited and managed by them.

However, the break up of the Central-Eastern state into two seems to have produced a new kind of Ibo entrepreneur. The new men are still acquisitive, and combative and still possess that alchemy that seems to turn anything into gold. But the avenue is gone.

Whereas in the past Ibos particularly the so-called

non-Onitsha Ibos, went everywhere acquiring property and flaunting their wealth in the faces of those in whose lands they lived, they are now more cautious where they acquire property and how they show their wealth. Although they are again moving out to other parts of the country, including the northern states from which they were chased in 1966-67, they are not yet settling there in large numbers as in the past. Now they are itinerant businessmen, with their homes and operational headquarters in their home states.

An even more remarkable development is that the Ibos, especially those of Anambra state, have learnt to enjoy themselves and dress well—and expensively too. No longer do they hoard money waiting to buy up the land and property of other Nigerians when they are broke.

Ibo businessmen and other professionals visiting Lagos or other cities for business no longer "squat" with their brothers, distant cousins and other relations in their one-room apartments as a means of saving money. Now they take the best suites in leading hotels, spending their money freely on their friends and on themselves.

The only area where Ibos are refusing to go is the Rivers state, where the issue of Ibo property abandoned during the war is still unresolved. Ibo property abandoned in Port Harcourt, capital of the River state, is valued at between £50m and £200m.

Ibo property abandoned in other parts of the federation has been returned to its owners. But the Rivers state authorities have maintained that claimants to property in their area have not produced

satisfactory proof of ownership. Some properties have been acquired compulsorily by the state government, and natives of the state have been allowed to occupy others without paying rent. In his 1973-74 budget speech, Mr Ukpabi Asika, the administrator of the then Central-Eastern state, described the abandoned property issue as "an ugly cancer which threatens in its predictable consequences to undermine and invalidate all that had been achieved since the end of the war."

The position has changed little since then and for most Ibos the abandoned property question is the thing that most reminds them that they lost the civil war. The other reminder of the war is the very poor state of the roads in the two states.

Perhaps the Port Harcourt experience is the main reason Ibos are reluctant to acquire property outside their own states. As a result, building and construction has become the chief activity in the private sector in Anambra and Imo states. The main towns, such as Owerri, Orlu, Okigwi and Aba in Imo state, and Onitsha, Nnewi, Awka, Ihiala and Enugu in Anambra state, are already becoming over-congested with new, unplanned buildings and factories.

It would appear that the two states are engaged in a competition to see which will develop faster. It is a competition other Nigerians welcome not so much because it confines the Ibos to their own states as because rivalry between the Ibos' states is seen as a healthy omen for the future of Nigeria.

The author is editor, New African Development.

# Standard Bank Nigeria Limited The International Bank that knows Nigeria

After 83 years in Nigeria our Bank, an associate member of the Standard Chartered Bank Group, has over 100 branches and offices throughout the country.

It was the first and now therefore is the most experienced commercial bank in Nigeria.

So, if you want a bank that knows Nigeria and the International scene, the Standard is your answer. Why not contact our Marketing Manager.

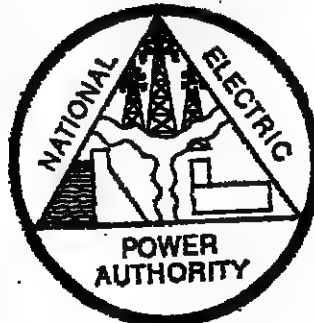
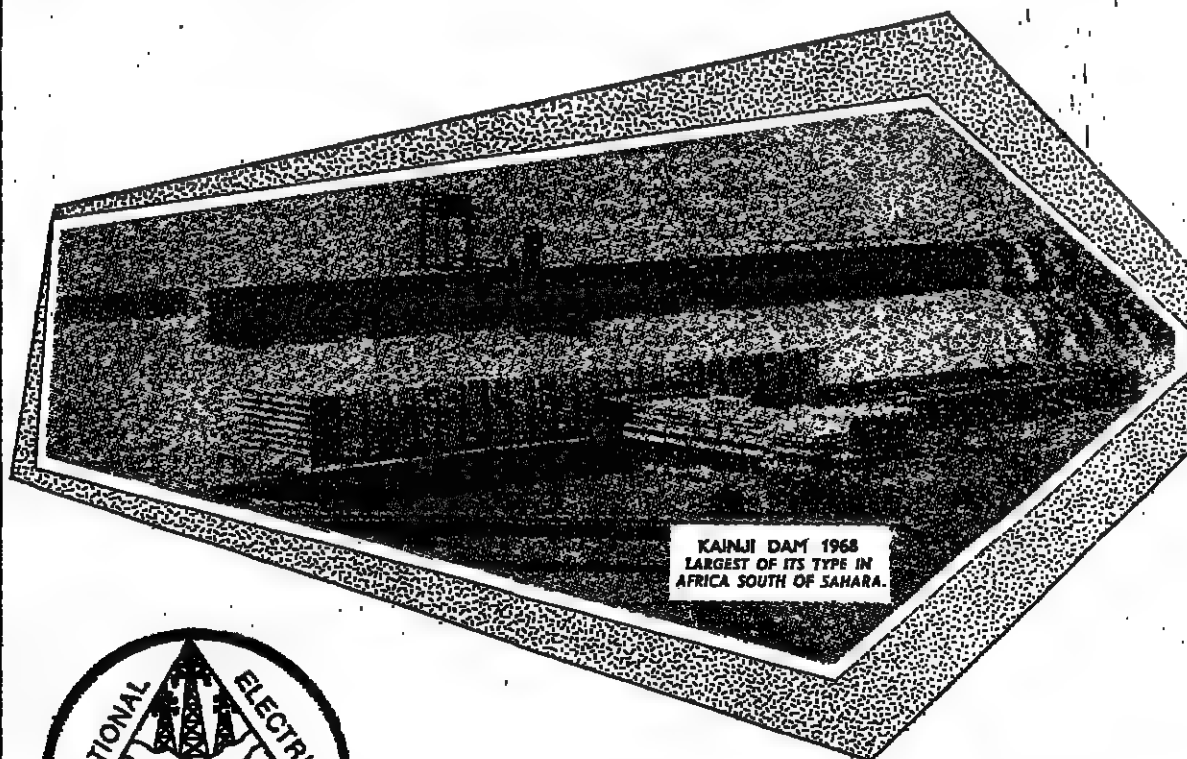


**Standard Bank**  
Standard Bank Nigeria Limited  
Unity House, 37 Marina,  
P.O. Box 5216, Lagos.



An Associate Member of  
**Standard Chartered  
Bank Group**  
10 Clements Lane,  
London EC4N 7AB

## NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY



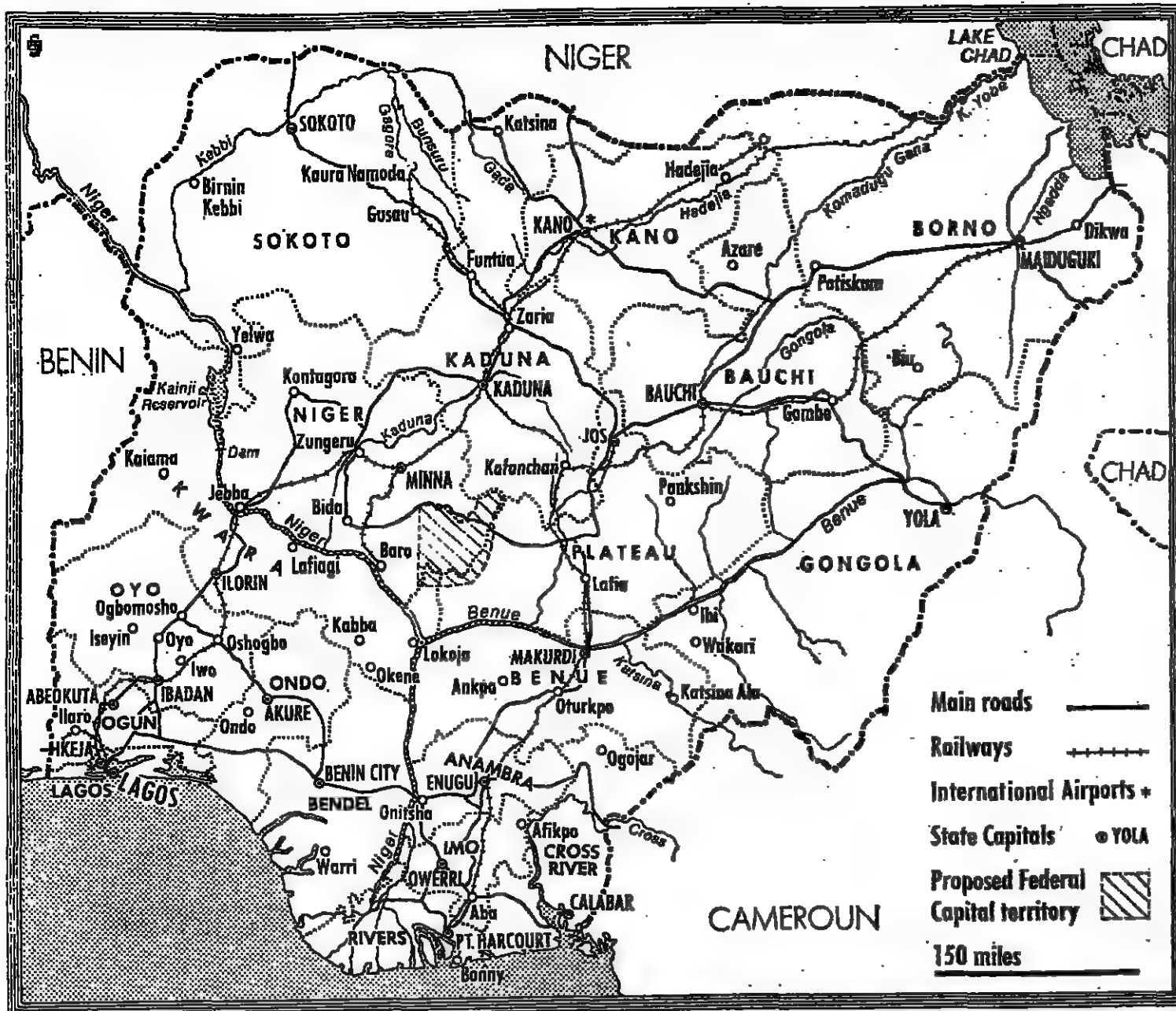
**Serving the electric power needs of Nigeria**

The Authority, which is one of Africa's fastest growing Electricity Supply Industries, has had an average load growth rate of 20% per Annum in the last Fifteen Years.

In order to encourage rapid industrial growth the Authority provides electricity at cheap rates.

For further details write to the:  
**ELECTRICITY HEADQUARTERS,  
23-24 MARINA, LAGOS-NIGERIA.**





Left: work goes ahead on the Lagos/Ibadan expressway. Above left: "The Awakening", a bronze symbolic of the renewal of independence. Above right: traffic in the centre of Lagos. Top: Lagos regatta.

## LAGOS City hurries to improve

by Peter Hill

Lagos is the nightmare that is becoming merely a bad dream. The traffic chokes the roads and streets of the federal capital, compounding the already debilitating climate with exhaust fumes; the telephone system is as temperamental as a prima donna; the mad drivers model their driving style on that of Nicki Lauda and have developed a car horn Morse code to carve their way through the packed streets—they are all familiar and accepted features of life in Lagos.

The shortcomings are recognised and significant improvements have been made over the past two years, but Lagos is a city in a hurry, seething with people and stretching at its seemingly elastic seams so that the benefits of a much-improved road system have not yet been realised.

No one knows exactly how many people live (and many simply exist) in the Lagos conurbation. Maps still issued by the Lagos state Government quote a figure of some 665,000 people based on the 1963 census—but even on a conservative basis most would put the capital's population at more than five times that figure.

It is a city of stark and quite dramatic contrasts. On Osoy and Victoria Islands, populated by a high proportion of expatriates and extremely wealthy Nigerians, large stockbroker-belt mansions with carefully nurtured gardens stand out as tangible evidence of the wealth which has been created in the wake of Nigeria's emergence as black Africa's super power.

Yet only a few miles away along the soaring, arching elevated roadways which snake through and over the sprawling city, in the suburbs of Musha or Ajegunle, hundreds of thousands of people are living in shanties, and families are crowded into tiny "bomas".

The stench of open drains and piles of refuse rotting in all pervasiveness. In short, the conditions are appalling, but people survive, but the pressure on Lagos grows and grows as increasing numbers of Nigerians flock from the hinterland to the capital city, as they have done for generations.

The new roads which curve their way through the sprawling conurbation have provided accommodation for

thousands of people. Traders have established their stands beneath the thunder of the traffic overhead and remain apparently unmoved and oblivious to it.

Overcrowded conditions and the difficulties of actually getting to work were among the factors which led the Lagos state Government to transfer the state capital to Ikeja, more than 10 miles from the city of Lagos.

Lagos remains the magnet for millions of Nigerians and foreign businessmen despite its considerable privations. But even the Nigerian businessmen are becoming concerned at the tension which the city's conditions create.

Considerable progress has been made in the past two years to relieve the congestion. The as yet uncompleted inner ring road is having a beneficial effect on reducing congestion in the

central part of the city. The road traffic edict under which cars with odd and even number registration plates are allowed on the roads on alternate days has also helped to alleviate it.

For those who can afford a second car (and they are not few) the edict enforced by civil and military police armed with *kobekos* has not proved too onerous.

Further improvements to promote the freer flow of traffic and reduce the accident toll form a feature of the state Government's policies. New car parks are planned along with parking and terminal facilities for heavy commercial vehicles.

Additional vehicles are being bought for the understaffed and overstretched Lagos city transport service with the aim of developing a "park and ride" system to make some areas of metropolitan

Lagos free of vehicles at particular times of the day.

In the present financial year the Lagos state Government plans to spend a total of N474.5m in both recurrent and capital expenditure with the highest outlays being made on education, health and public works. A total of N22m is being spent on the construction of additional (and much needed) low-income housing units.

Federal government assistance will amount to N62.8m in the course of the year.

Determined efforts are being made to clean up the city and present a more acceptable face to other parts of the country and the outside world. Budget provisions include the construction of two substantial incinerators and a combined incineration and composting

plant. It will be a long, hard haul.

Yet, having identified the priority for action to transform the city's unenviable image and recognised the monumental tasks which face them, the state Government's planners are considering the development of a holiday resort on Topo Island to attract both local and international tourists.

The wisdom of federal government plans for spending huge sums on the establishment of a new federal capital in the centre of the country has been questioned. Similarly, there must be many residents in the socially deprived areas of Lagos who would prefer to see even more emphasis placed on tackling the more fundamental questions of Lagos state than on tourist developments.

# UBA

## The bank for business with Nigeria

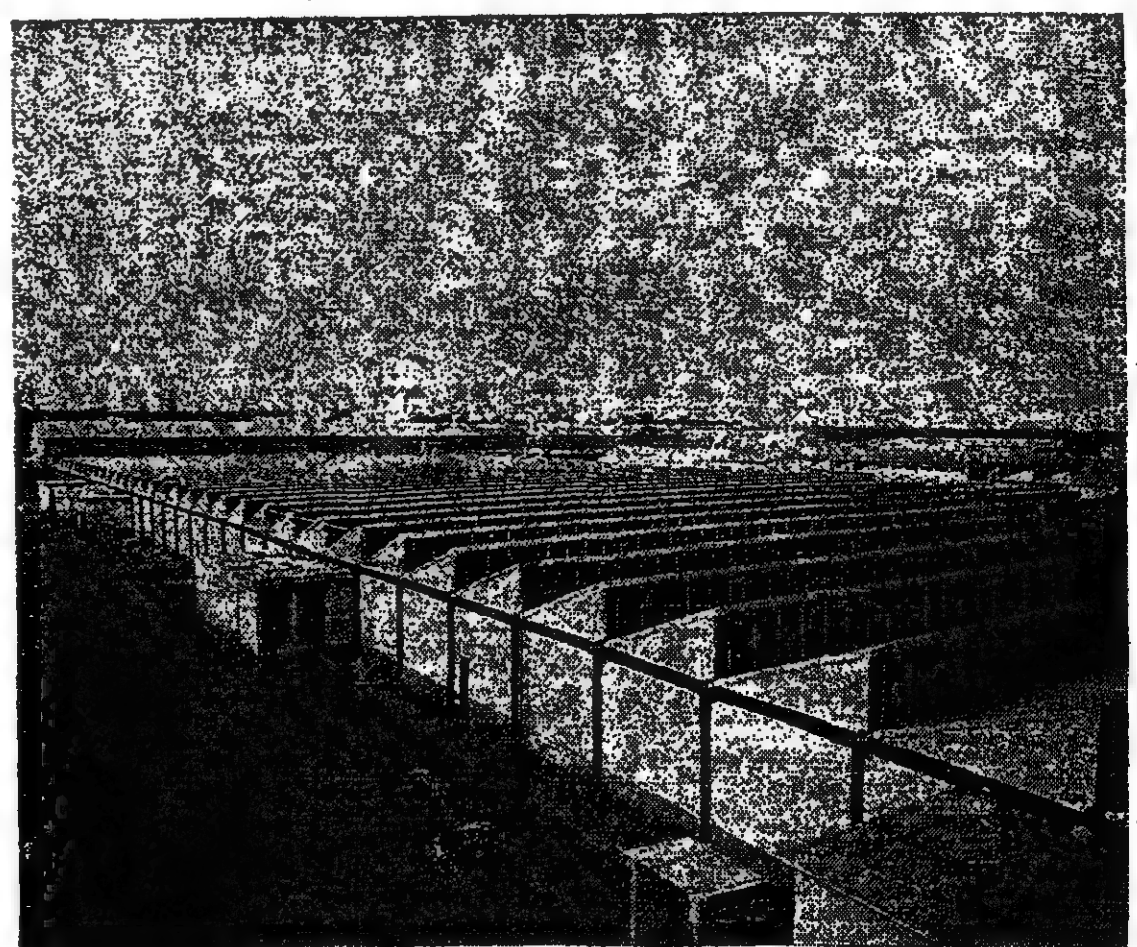
United Bank for Africa Limited is one of Nigeria's leading international banks, with more than thirty branches throughout Nigeria.

UBA — linked to a network of overseas banking partners in more than sixty countries — is ideally placed to meet your business and banking needs in Nigeria.

### UBA

United Bank for Africa Limited  
97-105 Broad Street,  
Lagos  
Telephone 20311 - 4  
Telex 21241 & Mindobank 21580

UK Affiliate: Banque Nationale de Paris,  
Plantation House, 10-15 Mincing Lane London EC3P 3ER Tel 01-626 5678, Telex 883432



## KADUNA TEXTILES LTD. 85 million sq. yds. annually

From the end of 1955 when Kaduna Textiles first started operation it has now grown into the largest spinning and weaving operation south of the Sahara. In all the present plant is the result of some 27 individual development projects since then.

Managing Agents:

DAVID WHITEHEAD & SONS LTD.  
Lower Mill, Rawtenstall, Lancs.



## BENUE AND PLATEAU

## Tiv and Idoma are given chance to realize potential

Martin Dent

From the boundary of the former Eastern Region 100 miles south of the Benue river to the highest point of the Jos plateau 300 miles to the north lies a part of Nigeria that has played a most important role in the country's history.

This area of 40,000 sq miles, the former provinces of Benue and Plateau, stretches from the fertile plains of Tiv and Idoma south of the Benue, north across the sparsely populated areas of the other side of the river to the edge of the Jos plateau, and north to the highland grasslands around Jos, comprising an area of 100,000 sq miles.

In 196, with the coming of power of General Gowon, the area was divided into two provinces, the Benue and Plateau, and the first time its chance to make a political impact.

At the time it produced nearly half of the fighting men of the Nigerian army. It was the Biafran secessionist hopes of separatism were fulfilled with the division of Nigeria into 12 states and of the north by six of which their own, Benue-Plateau, was one.

Expectations were high. "It was all" became the slogan. "If Benue-Plateau fails Nigeria fails too", a senior British civil servant had opted for it. It was not to be.

Through the peoples of the area were composed of a number of different tribes with different traditions and insular internal rivalry, and though they had not the advantage of common gov-

ernmental tradition and political culture of the far north, it was hoped that they would more than make up for this in their fresh energy and desire for education and development. In all-Nigerian terms the promise was fulfilled.

General Gowon came from an area where the Hausa culture of the Muslim north met with the Christian culture of his own people. He was a man of the minorities and a northerner at the same time. His background and his character combined to enable him to give the leadership that Nigeria so desperately needed to preserve its unity and then to welcome back the Ibos.

In this task he was assisted by other Benue-Plateau figures such as the late chief of staff, Joe Akpan, the Federal Commissioner, Tarka, and the head of the federal foreign service, Edwin Ogburn.

Joe has always been a cosmopolitan city with a liberal ethos composed of "strangers to the soil". Before the war the Ibos had comprised more than half the population and when it was over Gowon, the state governor, hastened to welcome them back. Likewise Makurdi, the town in Benue, rapidly recovered its Ibo inhabitants.

Internally, however, the state fared less well. Gowon, a graduate who had eventually joined the police, came from the same Angas people as General Gowon. The people of Plateau are more tribally varied and less numerous than those of Benue. The Igbos alone numbered more than 200,000. The Angas, the Yergans, the Sura, the Ankwas, the people of Wase and a host of other small groups with their separate identity contrasted with the large tribal groups of Benue, the Tiv and the Idoma.

The Tiv numbered nearly two million out of the four million or five million people in the state. They were

fearful by their Plateau neighbours because of their intense sense of identity, their thrust and vigour and their physical expansion, as Tiv farmers living in their family compounds of deep thatched huts spread out into neighbouring lands.

Relations in the state deteriorated, as did those between the Federal Commissioner, Tarka, from Tiv, and the Governor, Gowon, from Plateau. Allegations of corruption soon followed as did those of tribal favouritism, and the Tiv and Idoma began to feel themselves subject to discrimination.

## Courage to denounce corruption

The bogus company Votemak, whose directors were personalities in Jos close to the Governor, siphoned off a lot of state funds and produced no finished contracts. Finally the denunciation by General Gowon of the Tiv teacher and businessman Aki, who had the courage to denounce Gowon's corruption in detail by affidavit, signalled the end of the regime. Having quarrelled with each other Benue and Plateau lost their leadership.

However, the people benefited from the corrective policies of Murtala Muhammad, General Gowon's successor. A new and sympathetic governor, Muhammad Abdullahi from Ilorin, took Gowon's place and the corruptions of the old regime were investigated, made public and corrected. The assets of Votemak were seized.

Relations became much less tense but when the Ibo commission arrived to hear evidence for the creation of more states Benue was found to be willing to continue the association but Plateau was not and the state had to be divided.

The commission had the courage to make radical boundary changes. The Jarawa people of the east of the plateau were excised from Bauchi emirate and joined the peoples of Plateau, with whom they had

far more in common. The small emirates of Lafia, Nasarawa and Keffi were taken out of Benue and joined to Plateau.

Wukari, despite its majority of Tiv population, was removed from Benue and added to Gongola to the east. Benue was, however, much enriched by the addition to the state of the dynamic and developed people of Igala, whose territory stretches as far as the east bank of the Niger and who had felt a little left out in the predominantly Yoruba character of Kwara to which they had previously belonged.

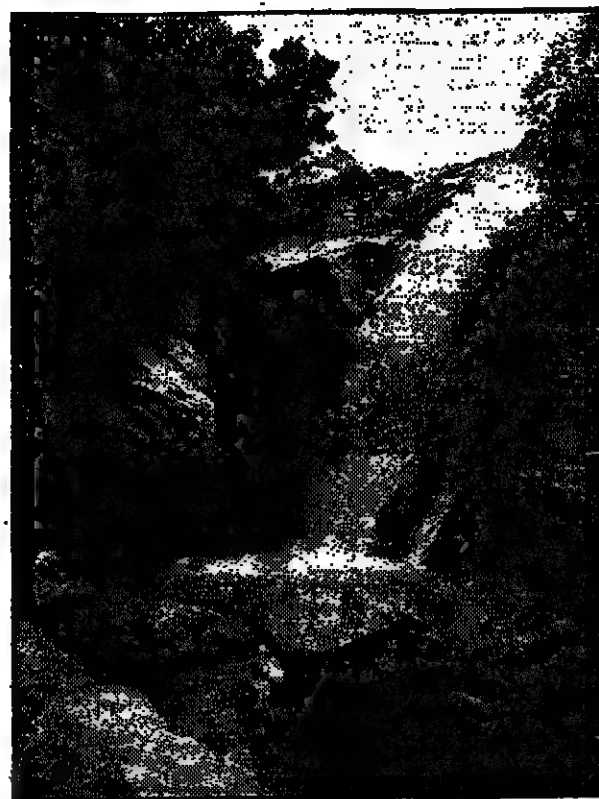
Makurdi, so long neglected as a town, became at last a centre and headquarters for a state government and the Tiv and Idoma have found their chance to show what they can do in a state in which they are no longer bereft of power. Both Benue and Plateau have a history of excellence in the states appointed by the Federal Government, but otherwise the senior people are representative of all parts of the state.

Jos, the capital of Plateau, was founded for tin and the tin-mining community left its mark in the straggling houses and gardens, the layout and in better facilities than those in any other comparable town in Nigeria.

The social structure is peculiarly liberal and cosmopolitan. It combines intense civic vitality and corporate sense with the existence of effective ethnic associations among its inhabitants, who keep closely to those of their own group and expect to return to their home areas when they retire.

However, the effect is not divisive because of the number of cross-cutting associations of a religious, social, economic or sporting kind, and because of the wisdom of each group in cooperating with others.

The tin wealth of Jos has declined. Once the most important mineral in the Nigerian national economy, tin now produces less than 1 per cent of the wealth generated in oil. Production has sunk from nearly 20,000 tons at the peak to less than 5,000. But still employs nearly 20,000 labourers and technicians and 1,000 or so freelance "tributors", who



The Jos Falls. Tourism in the area is hampered by emphasis on hotels of international standard rather than on package tours and cheaper accommodation.

pan on their own and sell to the companies.

With the present dramatic rise in the prices it may be possible to inject new life into the industry and to develop deeper ore strata as the old become exhausted. Nigeria produces only about 3 per cent of world supply, and any expansion involves an increase in the quota under the Tin Agreement. Jos tin is smelted locally at Makara.

The town is also an industrial and training centre and has a fair amount of light industry — tyre re-treading, soft drinks and so on. There is a proposal for a brewery. With a population of not much more than 100,000 Jos is not among the largest towns in Nigeria, but its potential is enormous. The achievement of that potential involves efficient operation of basic services.

Jos University was started in 1975 and the present Vice-Chancellor is an Ibo professor of medicine. In time it will no doubt draw on the enormous potential of both Plateau and Benue. In the 13 years from independence to 1973 their secondary school population rose from 800 to 12,000 and continues to increase rapidly.

With the launching of universal primary education in the 1975-80 development plan, the two states are expected to build 12,000 primary school classrooms and to take in 450,000 pupils. The teacher training, secondary and university expansion will require the recruitment of a large number of expatriate staff on contract.

Local agriculture is not as yet very productive in food or cash crops for sale but large-scale dairy enterprises have produced good results, and there is no reason why, given proper husbandry, the highlands of the plateau should

not develop some of the great agricultural productivity of Kenya.

Tourism has considerable potential. There is attractive scenery and much cultural richness in crafts and pottery, in but architecture and in song and dance available for study in and near Jos. The remarkable collection of terra cotta heads from the Nok culture, which flourished as early as 500 BC on the plateau, made by Bernard Fagg, is on display in the museum. The Kuru Falls near Jos are magnificent but tourism is made more difficult by the emphasis on international standard hotels at exorbitant prices rather than on middle-range accommodation and package tours. The difficulty of getting tourist visas is another obstacle.

In political terms Plateau is trying to recover from the effects of the executions which followed the mad and murderous abortive coup of Dimka, an Angas officer who killed Murtala Muhammad and attempted to seize power in February last year. About half the 50 military and civilian figures tried and executed came from Plateau and included Gowon, the former governor, as well as Bisala, the Federal Commissioner for Defence. Gowon's sister-in-law, Helen, was imprisoned for life as the alleged "courier of the coup".

There are still important personalities from Plateau in public life. Garba, the former head of the Federal Guard and now Federal Commissioner for External Affairs, comes from Lowland Division in Plateau and is one of the few military figures who could, if he wished, take off his uniform in 1979 and contest elections with some hope of winning. But perhaps he will prefer a military career.

Bishop Gonska of Jos is one of the outstanding figures in the Roman Catholic church and exercises wide influence in the community as a whole. A Plateau man has also been appointed to the military governorship of another state.

Benue state faces the problem of creating an identity that will transcend tribal ties and overcome

distrust. The same nation-building skill which is required at the national level to bring disparate peoples together and give them a sense of common belonging is needed just as much at the state level.

This kind of skill will be more than ever necessary with the return to civilian rule and the presidential and gubernatorial elections. In the latter there is only one vote, instead of a runoff system, and no requirement to show a spread of support. The candidate with the largest vote will win and it is therefore possible for a person to win the governorship by the support of the largest tribe alone.

It is important that the political leaders should show the necessary ability in forming party alliances and perhaps trading off support for the candidate from one tribe at the federal level for that of another at the state governorship level.

## Capital to get an airstrip

Makurdi, capital of the state, is acquiring a large airstrip and an impressive set of government offices, not to mention a brewery. It already has Murtala College of Further Technical Education, which may one day become the nucleus of a new university.

With the division of Tiv into six divisions and of Idoma into two the headquarters of each new division becomes a nucleus for development. Boko, the former capital of all-Tiv, has grown with great rapidity and Adikpo, nicknamed by its inhabitants as their London, is at last ceasing to be only a very small town.

The Tiv and Idoma areas have enormous agricultural potential as exporters of yams and rice to more urban areas, especially to Iboland. One can always tell Tiv farmers by the great size of the yam heaps. The old cash crops of beniseed and soyabean have been almost entirely replaced by cultivation of food crops for sale.

In industrial terms Benue was one of the most deprived areas in Nigeria, until the advent of the Murtala Muhammad government. Then at last approval was given for the huge cement works at Yandev, which has now been built and will begin work as soon as electric power reaches the site and the Makurdi-Boko road is brought up to standard.

The limestone is of the highest quality and plenty of industrial labour and technical skill are available, but for 10 years the scheme has been held up by political jealousies. It has a potential capacity of 600,000 tons a year (almost equal to Nigeria's entire cement consumption at independence) for 60 years.

Other projects are also to be built in the state—a ceramic factory, a brickworks and a brewery. Wherever one goes in Tiv people remark with pride on how changed the towns are since colonial days when I was first there. To the Tiv industrial, commercial and educational advances new buildings and new roads are not just conveniences or sources of income but valued symbols of achievement and modernity.

The full potential of these two states is only just beginning to be developed. Several of its personalities are playing a leading role in the Constituent Assembly now in session, especially Justin Tseyo, the first Tiv professor and head of the sociology department at Jos.

With the return of civilian rule there will be plenty of new contenders for office as well as the older figures such as Tarka. However, whatever happens, it is vital that Tiv should not go back to ruinous internal political quarrels.

It is even more important that all the politicians of Benue and of Plateau should learn to build the alliances which they need if they are to play an important part in helping Nigeria with good leadership.

The author, a former District Officer in Tiv Division, is a lecturer in politics at Keele University and the author of a number of works on Nigeria.

## E.O. ASHAMU &amp; SONS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

## Helping to build a NATION'S ECONOMY!



The Ashamu Group is playing a vital role in the economic growth of Nigeria. Its extensive investments throughout Nigeria serve to make full use of resources, of land, minerals and productive manpower. It provides direct employment and training opportunities for several thousand staff, and benefiting the community at large. The group is expanding activities to cater for countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Plans are far advanced for the opening of offices in the Far East. Overseas offices are established in USA, Germany, United Kingdom and in Brussels.

**eva**  
Ashamu  
Group  
Headquarters

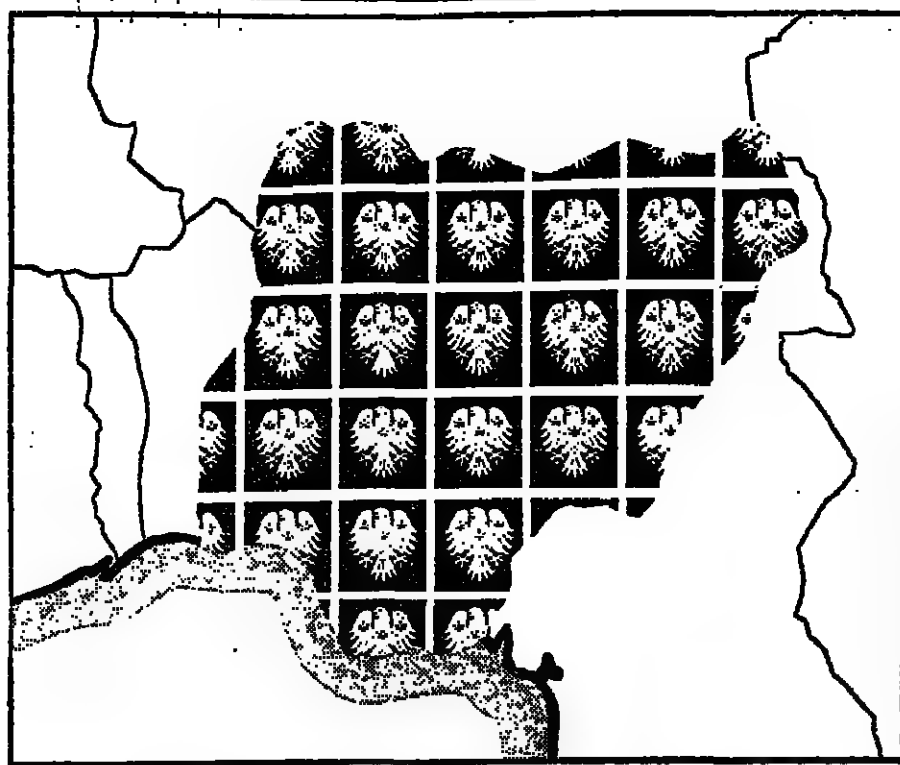
E. O. ASHAMU & SONS (HOLDINGS) LTD.

OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 377, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.

Telephone Nos: OKE-AFA OFFICE: 41996, 48715, 48718, 42554, 46827  
MUSHIN OFFICE: 47698, 46876. Telex No: 21578 ASHAMU NG.

OKE-AFA FARMS LTD. OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 377, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
OYO FEEDS COMPANY LTD. OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 377, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
PIONEER FARMS LTD. P.M.B. 1009, OYO, OYO STATE, NIGERIA.  
AGROTEC SERVICES LTD. OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 377, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
IKEJA REAL ESTATES LTD. OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 377, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
LATERITE PRODUCTS LTD. OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 377, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
PHARCO (NIGERIA) LTD. 230 HERBERT MACAULAY STREET, P.O. BOX 481, YABA, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
NIGERIAN EXPLOSIVES & PLASTICS CO. LTD. OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 149, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
IGBETTI MINING INDUSTRIES LTD. OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 377, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
NEW AGE SHIPPING LINE LTD. DEVELOPMENT HOUSE, 21 WHARF ROAD, P.O. BOX 47, APAPA, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.  
LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT NIGERIA LTD. OKE-AFA/ISOLD ROAD, P.O. BOX 377, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.





## FROM ABA TO ZARIA. BARCLAYS BANK HAVE 96 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT NIGERIA.

Barclays Nigeria are part of the 1,700-branch Barclays International group network in over 70 countries and every major financial centre of the world.

If your company already does business in Nigeria, or would like to expand there, talk to us. Our 96 branches throughout Nigeria keep us regularly informed on the country's latest trends in industry, commerce and agriculture. This means that we are ideally placed to help you with such things as import/export procedures, advice on methods of payment and finance and identifying developing business opportunities.

Contact Barclays Bank International Limited, International Division, 168 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3HP (01-283 8989 ext. 3811). Or get in touch direct with our Head Office in Lagos at the address below.



### BARCLAYS NIGERIA

Barclays Bank of Nigeria Limited  
Head Office: 40 Marina, PM Bag 2027, Lagos, Nigeria  
Telex: 21222. Telegraphic Address: Localdom

# PZ

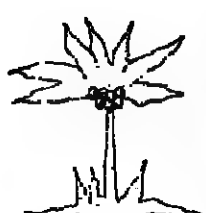
## PATERSON ZOOCHONIS

(Group of Companies)



TECHNICAL  
ENGINEERING CO. LTD.  
100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

PATERSON  
ZOOCHONIS  
INDUSTRIES LTD.  
Supt. Machinery, Perforating, Cranes  
Fabrication of Steel and Copper



PATERSON ZOOCHONIS  
AND COMPANY (NIG) LTD.  
100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

PZ Group Head Office: Bridgewater House, 80 Whitworth Street, Manchester M1 2JZ  
Associates in: Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone.

## SOKOTO

### Education and industry reach isolated seat of Islam

by Edward Poultney

Sokoto state, gateway to north-western Nigeria and formerly one of the most isolated regions of the federation, is learning fast to accommodate its traditional custody of the seat of Islam in Nigeria with a desperate need for modern secular education and industrialisation.

The home of Sultan Abubakar III, descendant of the Islamic reformer Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio and spiritual leader of all Nigerian Muslims, Sokoto has existed as a state only since February 1976, when, with Niger state to the south, it was created from the former North-western state.

The fact that Sokoto city was the capital of the former north-west and could therefore accommodate the physical needs of the new administration has barely compensated for the loss of the functionalities of Niger state origin who moved to Minna to set up their own government organisation. Although the two states still operate some common services it will take several years for Sokoto to be able to meet fully its own manpower needs.

In a country seeking to cement its post-civil war unity before the programmed return to civilian rule in October 1979 it has become unfashionable to talk of ethnic composition in political terms. However, it is impossible to describe the Sokoto Government's efforts to match the rapid progress of the rest of the federation without mentioning that the proud traditions of the Fulani and Hausa peoples, who made Sokoto one of Africa's great cities in pre-colonial times, had, until recently, led traditional rulers to discourage foreign ways.

The official figure for the state's population remains the 1963 census figure of about 4,500,000. (The late head of state, General Murtala Muhammad, cancelled the discredited 1973 census and ordered the earlier figures to be used for planning purposes.) But a quick tally of the estimated population in each of the 19 local government administrations in the state produces a total of about 6,500,000.

The state Governor, Colonel Umaru Abba, has made education the first priority in a government area which, more than any other in the federation, is suffering from a critical manpower shortage at the technical and middle executive levels. All the ministries are badly understaffed, the ultra-modern television station is working successfully with less than half its complement, and several departments of the young university, just beginning its first academic year, have only one lecturer.

The problems of services and communications which confronted Sokoto state when it was created last year are gradually being overcome by short and medium-term capital investment schemes under the present five-year development plan. A new visitor is surprised by the greenness and well-maintained public gardens of the capital city of one of Nigeria's driest states.

The roads—north to Niger and the Sahel and south to Zaria, Kaduna and the coast—are good enough to carry the overland freight convoys from Europe and still attract travellers away from the hassle of domestic flying, and the rural electrification programme should bring power to 11 additional cities within the present financial year.

In statistical terms, Sokoto has in only two years more than quadrupled the number of children going into primary school. From a first-year intake of just over 22,000 in 1975 the figure has jumped to about 100,000 last September. This is mainly because of the launching of the federal Government's universal primary education scheme, but the scheme would have been far less successful without the active support of the state Government. A significant number of new pupils are girls whose mothers and older sisters are in purdah.

The total of 2,500 primary schools (an increase of 804 over the number existing only a year ago) now holds almost 278,000 children, and as far as possible the education authorities are holding the size of classes down to a maximum of 40 children. This is not always possible because of a shortage of both teachers and classrooms, and the Ministry cannot afford to turn people away after months of persuading parents to send their children to school.

The bottleneck comes at the end of the primary education period, for at the moment the state has only 27 secondary schools with an enrolment of about 20,000 students, plus 25 teachers' training colleges. Until last year there were only four secondary schools for girls.

At the further education level, Sokoto has so far provided only 86 students for the technical manpower training courses which in the past few weeks have seen several thousand young Nigerians flying to Europe and the United States for specialist courses.

For the time being the state can look forward to increasing its qualified manpower by hundreds rather than by the thousands it needs, but enthusiasm and dedication are helping to fill some of the gaps. One technician in the television colour film developing room worked a 10-hour six-day week for three months with his only colleague was on a course in Belgium.

Meanwhile 80 per cent of the population is still working the land, where agricultural production is divided between subsistence and cash crop farming.

Like the other northern-most states of Nigeria, Sokoto has suffered from the tragic Sahel drought, which in neighbouring countries has seen the destruction of thousands of cattle and the break-up of established communities.

Several dozen villages are reported to have disappeared during the past five years of light rains, and this year's weather will not make life any easier for those farmers who have managed to hold their ground so far.

The state Government is working on a programme to attract farmers away from the cash crops of groundnuts, tobacco and cotton back to the traditional subsistence crops more appropriate to the federal Government's Operation Feed the Nation programme. Farmers' seeds and insecticides are being distributed freely and the Government has already started a system of tractor hiring and easy loans for smallholders.

In parallel to state government developments the federal Government has started work on the Bakouli dam project across the River Sokoto which is designed to irrigate 70,000 acres of land and a N24m project, funded by the state and federal governments and the World Bank, should soon bring improved amenities to 3,300 sq km in the Gusa area.

The author is Agence France Presse correspondent in Lagos.





## The final section of the report looks at contemporary cultural activities in the west, north and east of the federation

### YORUBAS

## Old crafts come to terms with modern ways

by Kevin Carroll

The Yoruba, 12 million strong, are the chief people of south-west Nigeria. Their traditional arts survive with varying degrees of vitality beside sophisticated modern art.

The most notable aspect is woodcarving. In the Yoruba carving tradition was the most rigorous in Africa. But about hundreds of carvers worked early this century. It is said that we could find 50 today. They worked for chiefs, the cults and the people.

Nowadays, however, chiefs build in modern materials and feel little need for carved pillars and doors. Orders to the carvers from the cults have become a trickle as most Yoruba are now, nominally at least, Muslim or Christian.

Along the border of Dahomey, now called Benin, the Egbado Yoruba carvers still produce cult objects. Their Gelede masks represent not only traditional subjects but also lords of air, craft, prominent politicians and Christian subjects. Among the Egbado Yoruba at Abeokuta, there is a guild of carvers working for both the cults and the market.

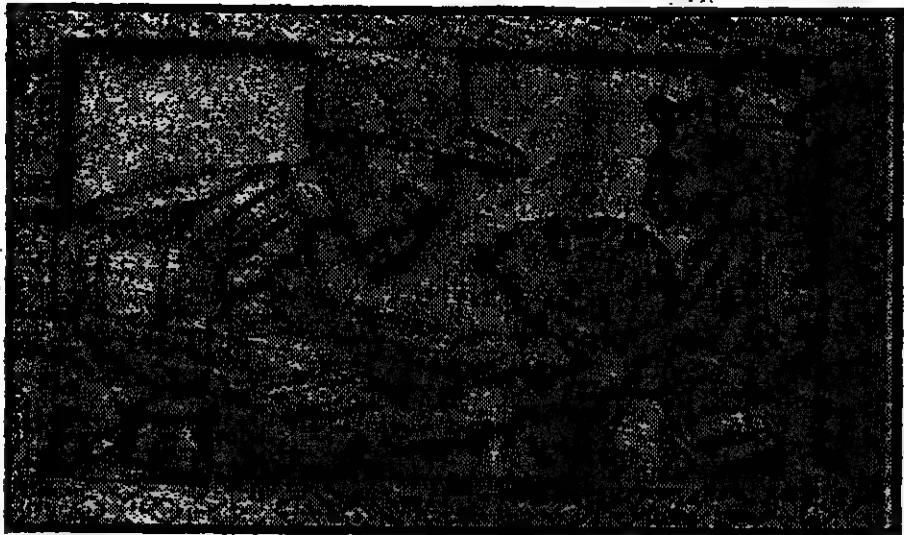
But it is the carvers of Ife in south-east Yoruba who have most successfully adapted to the new Nigeria. The church was the first to give them modern patronage when, 30 years ago, Bandle was asked to carve Christian subjects. He was the son of Aroogun of Ode, one of the greatest Yoruba carvers known by name to the outside world. Increasing orders prompted Bandle to take on as assistant Lemidi, son of a noted carver, Fakere of the Orungun.

Bandle remains a member of the traditional religion and Lemidi is a devout Muslim. Alongside their Christian carving, both continued to produce for the chiefs and the cults, though orders from these sources were few. Several years later, as their work became more widely known, they were given contracts for work on official buildings, for example, pillars and doors for the Idara gatehouse of the Ode palace at Ife, in 1953. Chief Awolowo, the first Premier of the Western Region, encouraged the use of Yoruba art, and in 1956 Lemidi Fakere carved the furniture for the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs at Ibadan, as well as panels for the Premier's office.

Encouraged by improved prospects, Bandle and Lemidi took on apprentices. After their three years' training, these apprentices would continue to work with their masters as journeymen assistants until they found their own feet and went off to start their own workshops.

Now 30 or more carvers of the Ode school can be found, many of them working in the big centres—Lagos, Ibadan, Oyo, Ilorin, Ife, Oshogbo—and each with his own apprentices. A considerable amount of their work is sold to foreigners, but increasingly, contracts come from home on the vertical, broad-state and church and other sources within Nigeria.

After the introduction of universal primary education in southern Nigeria 25 years ago, most of the younger car-



Right: Daniel Bamidele working on a cement mural for the Ibadan Cultural Centre. Traditional woodcarvers find it easy to transfer their skill to fresh cement. Top: another of his murals for the centre representing Yoruba musicians and dancers. Above: one of a set of Stations of the Cross, the burial of Jesus, carved by Joseph Imale.

vers are now literate, and some go on to secondary school making money by carving in their spare time. One of Bandle's sons, Gabriel, went on to study fine arts at Zaria University and is now a lecturer there. His younger brother, Michael, a brilliant carver, is doing fine arts in the same university.

During the holidays they often work with their father in the forest, and recently Gabriel showed me his new on his hands, complaining that they became soft during the term. These two carvers link the old Yoruba carving tradition with the world of international art, and it will be interesting to watch their progress.

Textile crafts continue to flourish, as even the most sophisticated person will want a range of traditional robes. Industry produces imitations of the old textiles, but cannot imitate the beautiful "crusty" effect of the handwoven. There is probably far more handweaving today than there was 100 years ago. The weavers cannot compete with modern looms in the production of cheap cloth, but they have found their place in the luxury market.

Thirty years ago most women wove their indigo and white striped cloth on the vertical, broad-state loom. Now the use of this loom is restricted to certain areas. Okene, an Igbarra town on the borders of southern Nigeria, is a flourishing centre for women's home-

weaving and a large amount of brilliant Okene cloth is sold all over Nigeria. There is no similar large centre in Yoruba land, but the women continue to weave in many places; for example in Ilesha they weave cloth with the lizard and frog patterns used by local chiefs and certain cults.

Most of the hand-woven cloth today is produced on the men's narrow loom. There are weavers' guilds in many towns, and in the large town of Ilesha weaving is the men's chief occupation. In Ilorin, a state capital, in the old town away from the bustle of the modern city and the noise of taxis, hundreds of the brightly coloured warps can be seen stretched across the open spaces to be folded and taken in at night.

The classical cloths are still made: red, white, brown, orange and indigo and white. But cotton spun and dyed in Nigeria has replaced the hand-spun cotton (unless by special order) and weavers make free use of metallic thread, rayon and polymer fibres.

Yoruba attire, the famous indigo and white resist-dyed cloth, is still popular and is sold all over West Africa. Central Abeokuta is one great dyeing factory pervaded by the smell of dye pots, with cloths spread over rocks and poles to dry. Indigo, although fast to washing, is unfortunately not fast to rubbing. So groups of educated women in several towns have set up home industries to produce tie and resist-dyed cloth using imported vat dyes.

Embroidery is also a thriving craft, whether the very expensive handwork or the much cheaper work done on special sewing machines. The main types of pattern used are the ancient interlaced *ibo*, or modern arabesques made popular through the annual pilgrimages to Mecca. Traditional embroidery forms are becoming popular for church use, and a Dominican brother and several Nigerian sisters now produce Nigerian-type vestments.

Beadwork, using the small seed beads imported for centuries from Europe, was a craft recently rigidly controlled by the chiefs, and the beadworkers made crowns, staffs and other ceremonial objects for the royal household: but now commoners bring orders direct to the craftsmen, and in recent years much work has come from the many modern dance groups which have sprung up.

Leatherwork, brass casting and calabash carving are moribund. Few orders for high quality work come from the traditional patrons in Nigeria, and the tourists are satisfied with mediocre products.

Pottery, however, has not been made redundant by the profusion of modern utensils. As long as the women continue to cook over open fires they will continue to buy the traditional pots, which are both cheap and functional. Pots are produced in great numbers in many towns and villages, ranging from huge pots for indigo dyeing to the tiny decorated pots used in worshipping the river goddesses.

In some villages all the open spaces are covered with drying pots, and on market day they are stacked high ready to be packed into lorries. It is hard to understand how the pots can reach their destination with-

out being smashed on the poor roads.

Until fairly recently, it was taken for granted that European music would be used in Nigerian churches, and that all that was necessary was to translate the words suitably into Yoruba. In the first half of this century, certain churchesmen, for example the Rev. Mr. Ransome-Kuti of Abeokuta, and Mr. T. K. Eshin, the organist of the Anglican cathedral in Lagos, began to popularise more suitable music in Yoruba. They continued to use European scales and harmonies, however. This music had a wide success, which has grown rapidly in the past 30 years, making much use of Nigerian instruments and dance rhythms, but have been unwilling to adapt the real religious music of Yoruba tradition.

Mr. Joseph Ojo, a Roman Catholic teacher of Oye Ekiti, was, in 1947, the first to compose Christian music based on the beautiful religious music of the Yoruba cults. This music uses strong dramatic rhythms on occasion, but has a wide range of function and feeling, and there is much eustere and moving chant. Mr. Ojo was unable to introduce his music directly into the churches at that time as the congregation would have condemned it as pagan. But he began to popularize it through the schools and through religious drama.

With the growth of national consciousness after independence there has been an explosion, as it were, of Yoruba church music, drawing on sources ranging from modern Yoruba pop to the deepest religious chants. New hymnbooks keep appearing all over the country and church authorities discuss whether there is any way to control this explosion without stifling the creativity.

In city churches with mixed congregations speaking several languages, much of the European music may survive. But in fully Yoruba-speaking churches, wherever the European music is not already extinct, it is being rapidly replaced by the new music.

The question of patronage is crucial for the development of Nigerian crafts. Craftsmen will not be able to get apprentices unless there are prospects of sufficient work. The textile crafts are flourishing because the early political leaders made the wearing of Nigerian dress a symbol of freedom.

But woodcarving, the greatest of the Yoruba crafts, has not been sufficiently patronized in modern times.

The state and churches, banks and hotels, and more recently chiefs and private individuals, have given contracts to the carvers. But many new state buildings, churches and private mansions are being built, and a lot more work could be found for the carvers—as for other artists—in the decoration of these buildings and their furnishings.

The author, a Liverpool-born priest of the African Mission Society, has worked in West Africa since 1943. He was appointed by his society to study and export crafts with Yoruba crafts and music from 1947 to 1954 and has continued his work with Yoruba artists since. He has written Yoruba Religious Carving, published by Chapman's in London in 1967.

# A. G. Leventis Group—Nigeria

For the last thirty years the Leventis Group of Companies has diversified throughout the Federation. Among its wide-ranging activities, which employ over eight thousand people are:

- Truck and Motorcycle Assembly
- Agricultural Equipment, distribution and servicing
- Electrical Appliance manufacture
- Soft Drinks manufacture
- Department Stores throughout Nigeria
- Mainland Hotel, Lagos
- Wholesale Distribution of general goods and Building Materials
- Manufacture of CO2 and Crown corks
- Investment in Glass manufacture and Brewing
- Agencies and franchises including those for:

- COCA COLA • DAVID BROWN • HONDA • KELVINATOR
- MERCEDES BENZ • OLIVETTI • RENAULT
- ST. MICHAEL • SANYO

Head Office: Idodo House, P.O. Box 159, Lagos, Nigeria

London: West Africa House, Ronger Lane, Ealing, W.5

LAGOS, IBADAN, KANO, KADUNA, BENIN, PORT HARCOURT, JOS, MAIDUGURI, NGURU, ABA, ONITSHA, ENUGU, IFE, WARRI.

The advertising in this Report was canvassed by Mr. Adeyola Balogun, the Managing Director of International Media Associates in Lagos. INTERMEDIA are the leading P.R. and Media Experts in Nigeria, we also hold agencies for the contiguous Francophone countries. Contact us.

## INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATES

Crusader House (3rd Floor), 23/25 Martins Street, P.O. Box 2226, Tel. 23055, Lagos, Nigeria. Cables & Telegrams: INTERMEDIA, Lagos.

## People with a position to maintain in the world keep informed with SPECIAL REPORTS

The Times Special Reports represent a unique service to the reader, not only covering a wide range of subjects that matter in the world today, but covering them with the same rigour and completeness that have maintained The Times unrivalled reputation as the newspaper of record. It is not likely that every reader will take an interest in every Special Report. But every reader may be interested to know some of the things that make The Times Special Reports so special. Every Special Report is planned, with meticulous care, months ahead of its publication date. The same policy that governs reporting in The Times itself governs the Special Reports. The policy is to be objective, independent, and to keep an eagle eye on the facts, whatever the subject of the particular report, or, if a particular country is featured, whatever its political views. Furthermore, a high proportion of Times readers have profound influence in international affairs and in worldwide industry and trade.

Altogether, these readers, in the UK, Europe, and throughout the world, number over 1.5 million. Not only does the publication of a Special Report increase its readership, but because The Times Special Reports are used as reference in libraries and information centres throughout the world, they have a special, permanent readership.

These are some of the factors that make The Times Special Reports so special. They are the only reports in the world that are not only the most up-to-date, but also the most complete and authoritative. Any one of them may be the key one in which to promote your company and its products. Keep an eye open for our forthcoming Special Reports.

And last, but not least, at any time, to write for further details, to The Times, New Publishing House, 100, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8AL. Telephone 01-227 1224.





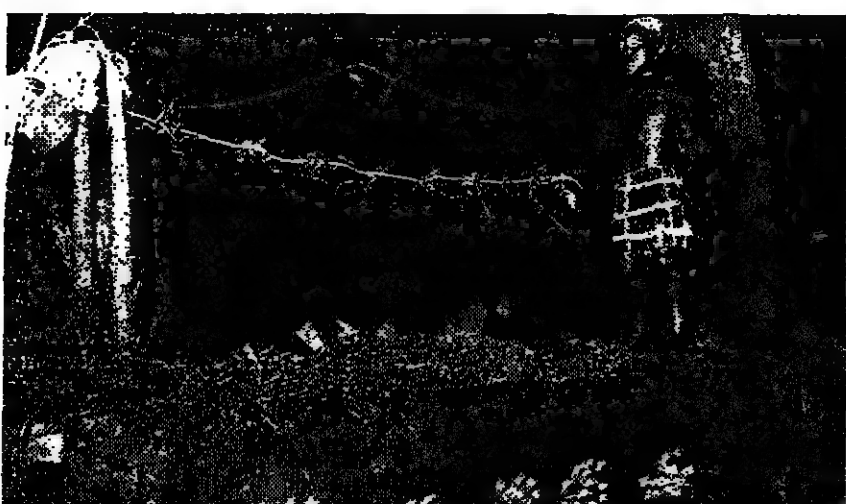
**AGRICULTURE**—To boost Operation Feed the Nation Campaign (OFN) land development scheme was introduced in the State. Picture shows a tractor clearing the land ready for planting.



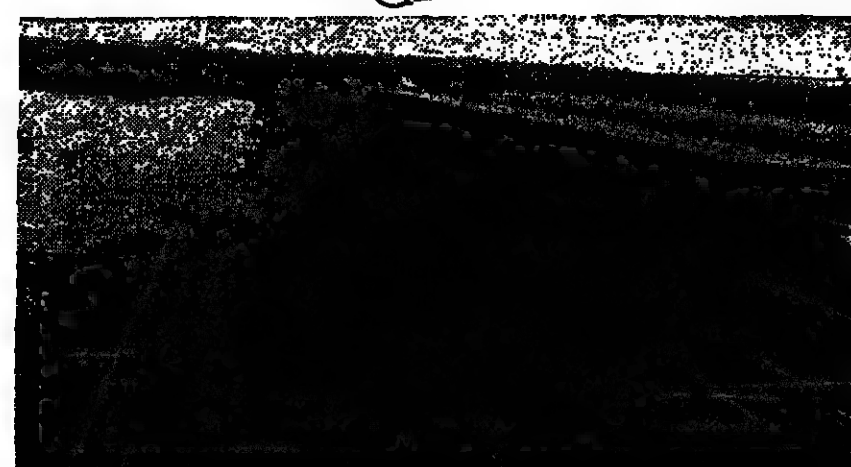
**EDUCATION**—With the introduction of UPE education is no longer the privilege of the rich few.



**GOVERNOR**—The Military Governor of Benue State, Colonel Abdullahi Shetteng who handles the affairs of the State.



**CULTURE**—The State is rich in culture. The Cultural Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Information entertains people in Makurdi to cultural nights.



**ROADS**—Communication is one of the problems faced by the State. In its effort to improve its roads the State has undertaken the building of several linking bridges. Here a multi-million naira bridge at Katsina-Ala.



**TRADITIONAL RULERS**—The three first class traditional rulers in Benue State. From left to right seated are the Atah of Igala, CBE, CON, Alhaji Aliyu Obaje; the Tor Vio, Mr. Gondo Alor and the Ochi Idoma, Mr. Abraham Ajane Ukpebi.

## BENUE STATE OF NIGERIA

**EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF BENUE STATE**  
Benue State came into existence on 3rd February, 1976 when seven new states were created in Nigeria by the Federal Military Government.

It has an area of 69,740 square kilometres and a population of 3,041,194 (1963 population census). Almost rectangular in shape, Benue State is located in the middle of the country and is surrounded by six states of the Federation. The Plateau State lies to its north while it is surrounded in the south by Anambra and Cross River States. It has a common boundary with Gongola to the east and Bendel and Kwara States to the west.

**MAIN FEATURES:** The State derives its name from the River Benue which is also one of its main physical features. An important tributary of the River Benue is the River Katsina-Ala. The State stretches across the transition belt between forest and savanna consisting of undulating hills, grassy open spaces in the north and derived forests in the southern portion.

There are two marked seasons—a hot and dry season with short spell of harmattan (November-March) and a wet season. No part of the State suffers from extremes of temperature.

**PEOPLE:** There are three main ethnic groups: Tiv, Igala and Idoma. The bulk of Nigerian Armed Forces come from these practical and enterprising tribes. Almost 80% of the population engage in farming and given the abundance of fertile land that we have, it is not surprising that Benue State feeds a substantial portion of Nigeria. The main food crops are yams, guinea-corn, cassava, rice and maize; the major cash crops are beniseed, soyabean and cotton. The majority of the population are Christians.

**INITIAL PROBLEMS:** The State was one of the first of the new States to move into their Headquarters and started working. It was a period of sacrifice. Apart from the acute shortage of office and housing accommodation, there was the need to harmonize administrative practice, rules, and edicts inherited from Plateau and Kwara States to suit the needs of the new State.

It was necessary to provide office accommodation as a matter of urgency and contracts were awarded almost immediately for over 1,000 office units of simple structure at a cost of nearly N1 million. All of the offices have been completed and are now being used.

Next came the problem of providing reasonable housing for the staff. Contracts were soon given for the construction of about 200 Senior Staff Quarters and over 300 junior and intermediate staff quarters in Makurdi at a total cost of N7,600,000. This project was handled by indigenous contractors and several have been completed and allocated to officers.

In Local Government headquarters, about 80 senior staff quarters and about 200 junior and intermediate housing units are under construction. These are expected to be ready before the end of this year.

In addition, the Housing Authority, one of the thirteen parastatals set up by the State Government, is making arrangements to embark on the execution of the Federal and State Governments housing units for the masses.

Ministries such as Agriculture, Health and Justice are simultaneously going on with their individual programmes of building office and staff quarters in Local Government areas of the State. Meanwhile, designs for the State Secretariat are almost completed and the first phase of the project is estimated to cost N7.8 million.

**WATER SUPPLY:** To further improve the working and living conditions of the people in the State, the Government has made various contract awards for infrastructure. These include contracts for the expansion of water supply schemes for Makurdi which has raised water supply to 230,000 gallons per day. Expansion schemes in Idah and Ukepa are almost completed while work has started on the new water supply for Dekina. In addition, contract has been awarded for a 4 million gallons per day water supply scheme for Gboko-Yandev at a cost of N23 million. The scheme will also serve the proposed Cement Factory.

Eight other towns, including Oju, Adikpo, Vandeikya, Otukpa, Ihu, Uronkwa and Jato-Aku, are to be supplied through another contract award of nearly N3 million. Work on the water supply at Wannano, Zaki-Biam and Alfiade is almost completed while that of Igumale is progressing satisfactorily.

The State Government hopes to maintain this pace of development of water supply schemes so that by the end of the current plan period, water supply will no longer be a major problem in the State.

**ROAD DEVELOPMENT:** The State inherited a very poor network of roads and consequently the provision of good bitumen surfaced roads is one of its priorities. The State government has already awarded contracts for bitumen surfacing of the following roads:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| a. Gboko-Adikpo-Jato-Aku for   | N16 million |
| b. Ankpa-Gboko-Abajokolo for   | N16 million |
| c. Abajokolo-Iyke-Akanga for   | N14 million |
| d. Otukpa-Uronkwa-Agila for  | N11 million |
| e. Katsina-Ala-Iyke-Akanga for                                       | N8 million  |
| f. Arufe-Akanga (an inheritance from former Eque-Plateau Government) | N7 million  |
| g. Makurdi Township Roads and Drainage                               | N6 million  |

The Federal Government has also embarked on three federal government road programmes affecting Benue State to wit: Makurdi-Yandev, Ogoja-Katsina-Ala and Enugu-Otuko. These roads are presently under construction.

**ELECTRICITY PROGRAMME:** Benue State will derive some substantial benefits when the Federal Power Projects are completed. Transmission lines existing or under construction will connect some major towns such as Idah, Ankpa, Otukpo, Gboko, Katsina-Ala and Makurdi to the national grid system. It is hoped that these areas will be switched on by December this year.

Through its Rural Electricity Board the State Government recently awarded contracts for the supply of electricity to 16 towns at a total cost of N31 million.

In Makurdi, the State capital, a 3-megawatts power station is now under construction and the people of Makurdi will enjoy this Christmas with an undisturbed flow of electricity.

**EDUCATION:** Compared to other Northern States, we are advanced in education. Last September the Ministry of Education enrolled a total of 140,275 children into Year One for the launching of the UPE Scheme. This was twice the number of entrants for the previous school session.

At the moment there are 88 post-primary institutions as against 80 at the inception of the State, then largely controlled by either Voluntary Agencies, Communities or private individuals.

In order to harmonize and control these institutions more effectively, a State Schools Board was established. The State Schools Board has been able to arrest the unpleasant incidence of late payment of teachers salaries.

Secondary Schools have been expanded to six streams in some cases to cater for ever increasing numbers of primary school leavers. Five new Secondary Schools recently admitted its first pioneering students.

Before the creation of new States last year, there was no single post-primary institution in Benue State. Now, there are three such institutions namely: the Advanced Teachers College, Katsina-Ala; the School of Basic Studies, Ugbokolo and the Murtala College of Arts, Science and Technology, Makurdi. Each of these institutions are one-year-old and opened with intakes of 500. The Federal College of Technology, Idah, started early September this year. The State Scholarship Board has awarded scholarships to over 1,900 qualified candidates in various fields, tenable in local or overseas institutions of Higher Learning.

Realizing the importance of education in the State the Government has set aside N101 million of its N302.6 million this fiscal year for the Ministry of Education. This places the Ministry on top of all others in the State's Financial Budget for this year.

**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES:** Realizing that agriculture is the mainstay of the State's economy, the government has undertaken many projects aimed at assisting the farmers to attain better yields. These include the sale of fertilizers, pesticides, improved seedling at heavily subsidized rates as well as providing mechanized services to farmers.

It is expected that during this financial year, 32 metric tons of fertilizers would be acquired and distributed to the farmers; while some N1.5 million would be used for purchase of tractors and other agricultural machinery with which over 28,000 hectares of land will be put under cultivation annually for the production of yams, maize, guinea-corn, rice, cassava, millet and cash crops such as oil palm, cotton and coffee.

Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) programme is receiving the attention the scheme deserves. Many communities, institutions and private individuals in the State have embraced the programme. But to further boost the spirit of the OFN, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has embarked on land clearing for farmers at minimal charges.

It is a fact that Benue State is one of Nigeria's major food producing areas and the inhabitants are renowned for their farming. The Government has therefore been trying to build on this tradition through programmes that would enable the farmers to help themselves. In this direction, the Government has spent about N35 million on land clearing and development in all areas of the State. Commissioners responsible for Agriculture in the 19 States recently visited Benue State primarily to inspect and study this programme which is being widely acclaimed throughout the country.

The World Bank is sponsoring Awaraba Agricultural Development Project, which will benefit the farming population of the people of the State.

The State Government has taken much keen interest in animal health and livestock. N6 million has been set aside for animal health projects in the State, which include poultry and pig-breeding development. Similarly, extension services to fishermen has been intensified with a view to ensure higher yields in fish production to tackle the problem of protein deficiency.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** The State is blessed with abundant valuable but largely untapped mineral and natural resources. The different resources are summarized in the table below:

Minerals	Location	Possible Industry
Coal	Okaba, Ankpa LGA	Chemicals, eg Sulphuric Acid, Ammonia for preparing fertilizers, paints, mining, steel industry, domestic uses.
Cement	Okaba, Ankpa LGA, Otukpo, Ankpa in Otukpo LGA	Concrete, cement, lime manufacture.
Marble	Yandev, Gboko LGA, Agila, Igumale in Otukpo LGA, Ekubu, Itoke, Idah LGA	Ceramics, building, carving, tiles, monuments, chemicals, paints manufacture.
Petroleum	Okogbo, Idah LGA	Refinery, petrol, kerosene, disinfectants, chemicals, etc.
Beniseed	Gboko, Makurdi and Katsina-Ala LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Soyabean	Same as above	Crushing for oil extraction.
Palm kernels	Okupko, Dekina, Ankpa and Idah LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Palm oil	Same as above	Soap making, margarine.
Rice	All over the State	Rice milling.
Citrus fruits	Gboko, Katsina-Ala, Otukpo LGAs	Canning and bottling.
Cotton seed	Okupko, Dekina LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Coffee (robusta)	Gboko, Katsina-Ala, Dekina LGAs	Beverages.
Livestock	All over the State	Abattoir, canning.
Goats and sheep		
Fish	Ponds, rivers, streams	Fish canning.
Pigs	All over the State	Canning.

**COMMERCE:** A total sum of N4.4 million has been earmarked for commerce out of which it is expected that a State Commercial Bank would be established at a cost of N1.4 million. Another N1.5 million will go into the construction of Co-operative Shops in major towns in the State. Apperis have been made for more commercial banks to open branches throughout the State in order to further boost the economy of the State.

At present there are ten commercial banks operating in the State: Barclays Bank has three branches in Makurdi, Gboko and Idah. The Standard Bank has only a branch in the state capital which is served by the African Continental Bank. Bank of the North and the New Nigerian Bank. The Bank of the North has branches in Gboko and Ankpa while the National Bank of Nigeria has a base in Otukpo.

**HEALTH:** Here emphasis has been placed on the supply of drugs to the existing hospitals for which N4 million has been provided. Generally the main concern of the Government has been the provision of health facilities to the remotest parts of the State. This fiscal year Comprehensive Health Centres at Adikpo, Oju, Udei and Vandeikya have been approved while twenty Health Clinics are to be established in various other parts of the State. Contracts have been awarded for the construction of eight of such Health Centres, which are aimed at complementing the Services of the Hospitals. In addition, the three new Rural Health Centres at Adikpo, Abacho and Agasha will be opened for full services during this fiscal year.

The Makurdi General Hospital as well as existing hospitals are being expanded to cope with growing numbers of patients. Designs for a 4,500-bed specialist hospital at Makurdi and the new 300-bed Katsina-Ala and Otukpo hospitals are ready.

The Government has through the Federal Ministry of Finance placed orders for some of the most modern hospital equipment from and internationally reputable European firms. The equipment, valued at N10 million, will be paid for through a 15-year medium-term loan.

A School of Nursing and a School of Health Technology with intakes of 450 students each have been opened in Makurdi and Idah respectively.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE:** Benue is noted for its dancers. Tiv and Idoma dancers have won acclaim for both the State and Nigeria in cultural festivals. Tiv are extroverts. A Tiv man can at once be boisterous and formal, casual and friendly. He can improvise a song and a dance for every occasion and a number of these are imitations of the habits and movements of some animals and of human beings. Through one of the well-known symbolic dances, simulates bodily disfigurement due to disease. The dancers try to effect the most bizarre bodily contortions. This dance group has represented Nigeria at the First African Arts Festival Dakar, and has toured USA, Canada and Britain. This group also featured during the recent FESTAC as a side attraction.

Every town has its *Swanse* group, an all-night dance characterized by serpentine movements. By far the most popular is a dance-cum-puppet show called *Kwagh-hir*. This features elaborate and intricate puppetry, the nearest masquerade to a tribe with non-ancestral worship, *Kwagh-hir*.

does not only depict Tiv proficiency in handicraft but their ingenuity in manipulating the various shapes and sizes of animals, causing them to move, to jump, to knit, to smoke a pipe and even to depict soldiers executing a condemned highway robber.

The Idoma are noted for their attachment to their dead ancestors whom they worship communally as *Aleku*. These festivals usually take place in the dry season. The Agilas celebrate Ono Festival in April which lasts for four days. In each, there are lots of rituals, dances and spectacles to watch. Girls usually come to their husbands' houses during these periods. The Idoma period following the harvest and the cessation from heavy farm work is a time for recreation, increased tempo in social activities including the emergence of new dance groups. Odebari from Agila is one of those that has outlasted others. It is danced mainly by youths and has represented former Benue-Plateau State and Nigeria in All Africa Arts Festivals in Kenya and Addis Ababa in 1972. Other festivals celebrated at Abakpa in June, Ujoh, the new year feast in August and Ogwa marking the end of the rainy season in September each year.

The Igales have numerous agricultural festivals designed to ensure abundant harvest. In them, they make sacrifices to their ancestors beseeching them for fertility and prosperity. The most important of these is *Egu* festival, the new year feast in July or August. In the *Egu* ancestral masks are consciously located in the centre of the State. From left to right appear: *Ocho*, a hunting ceremony, is celebrated after the grass is ready for burning and is accompanied by much merry-making. Immediately after *Ocho* is *Ogagame*, a week-long celebration during which the *Atah* publicly appears to address the people. A day after the end of this feast is *Imphi* ceremony in memory of the young beautiful daughter of Ayegba. In the legend when Ayegba's kingdom was faced with imminent defeat at the hands of the Benue, a *Yoku* priest prescribed her sacrifice to avoid the impending doom. Her father could not bring himself to do this but when *Imphi* heard of the prescription, she insisted on offering her life to save the land. She subsequently became a guardian goddess who preaches over the destiny of the Igala. Her statue, conspicuously located in the centre of Idah, was the scene of worship during the festival, now abandoned. In the district in Idah LGA comes *Akpa*, *Ajone*, a mystifying masquerade that contracts, elongates, doubles itself and performs wonderful feats.

**TRADITIONAL RULERS:** As a sign of the respect the Administration has for Natural Rulers and in recognition of their role for maintaining law and order, they are *Princes* of the five Traditional Councils in the State.

**TRADITIONAL COUNCILS:** Atah of Igala, Alhaji Aliyu Obaje CBE, CON, is Chairman of Idah and Dekina Traditional Councils. The Tor Tiv Mr. Gondo Alor and the Ochi Idoma Mr. Abraham A. Ukpebi are the Chairmen of Tiv and Idoma Traditional Councils respectively. Eje of Ankpa Alhaji Yakubu Adaji is the President of Ankpa Traditional Council while the *Akoma* of Bassa-Kono, Mr. Joseph Ochoi heads that of Bassa.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:** There are thirteen Local Government Councils in the State, which are development areas.

These are:

Name	Headquarters	Population (1976 Projected figures)
Ankpa	Ankpa	377,760
Bassa	Ozama	89,550
Dekina	Dekina	170,551
Gboko	Gboko	328,979
Gwer	Alfiade	271,896
Idah	Idah	330,245
Katsina-Ala	Katsina-Ala	247,885
Kwande	Adikpo	263,210
Makurdi	Makurdi	153,120
Oju	Oju	340,803
Okupko	Okupko	199,174
Vandeikya	Vandeikya	294,228

Each of these has a separate administration and elected Councils headed by a Chairman who is assisted by four Supervisory Councilors.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF BENUE STATE "TAKE OFF BUDGET"**  
A total sum of N302.6m is to be spent this financial year, N80m more than 1976/77 Financial Year.

- N101m allocated to Education.
- Five new Secondary Schools to be opened.
- N4m voted for more scholarship and purchase of drugs.
- 500-bed specialist hospital for Makurdi.
- Comprehensive-Health Centres at Oju, Udei, Adikpo and Vandeikya.
- Face-lift for Makurdi, Flyover at Railway Crossing.
- 4,000 Housing Units in the State.
- N18.7m grant to Housing Authority and Housing Loan.
- Computer for Treasury Division, Ministry of Finance.
- New Water-Scheme for Dekina, Idah and Ankpa.
- Boreholes for 27 Villages.
- All LGA Headquarters to get electricity.
- 300-bed hotel complex in Makurdi.
- New hotel in Ankpa, Idah and Gboko.
- More buses to join 27 already operational.

ENQUIRIES TO: PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION  
P.M.B. 2102, MAKURDI, BENUE STATE, NIGERIA.



## OSHOGBO-IFE

## Art workshops bring out unusual creative talents

by Michael Crowder

In Oshogbo and the near by university town of Ife, the revered as the ancestral home of the Yoruba of south-western Nigeria, flourishes a group of artists without formal Western art training but employing many of its techniques and drawing inspiration from some of its ideas. This school, some of whose members have gained international reputations, has its origins in a series of art workshops organized by the Department of Extra-mural Studies at the University of Ife and later by the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ife.

The first workshop was held in Ife, but it was the series of workshops organized by the University of

Ibadan's resident extra-mural tutor in the bustling town of Oshogbo about 50 miles away that really gave rise to the establishment of this group popularly known as the Oshogbo artists. The workshops these workers attended were organized by established artists, both Nigerian and foreign, among them Ru Van Rossen, Pancho Guedes, Bruce Onobrakpeya, Suzanne Wenger, Dennis Williams and Georgina Beier.

The later workshops at Ife, in contrast to the Oshogbo ones, were run on a continuing basis exclusively by Nigerian artists, notably S. Ireni Wangboje, now head of Nigeria's top art school at Ahmadu Bello University, and Agbolola Folarin, a sculptor and theatre designer.

Ulli Beier, the extra-mural tutor in Oshogbo, who orga-

nized the workshops there from 1962 to 1966, although not an artist himself played a vital role in encouraging those who showed talent to continue in their new-found profession. He has also become chief publicist for the movement.

The week-long workshops at Oshogbo, as was the later continuing workshop at Ife, were open to all-comers. Several of those who attended the Oshogbo workshops were members of the Duro Ladipo Opera Company, which was also sponsored by Ibadan's Department of Extra-mural Studies.

In the workshops the artists were encouraged to experiment in various media, including, at one workshop, etching equipment. Some who attended these workshops proved either to have no talent or else lost interest once the workshop had finished. Others like Jimoh Buraimoh, Muraina Oyelami, and Rufus Ogundele were so inspired and showed such remarkable creative talent that they continued their interest in art, at first living jointly from the sales of their work and employment in other arts, particularly Duro Ladipo's folk opera company, as musicians, actors or dancers.

Few of the artists at these workshops had education much beyond early secondary school. And, until the workshop held at Ife from 1968 to 1971, most of them came from the immediate catchment area of Oshogbo. This writer remembers Twins-Seven as an itinerant entertainer at a dance in Oshogbo. So remarkable were his dances, the more so because two figure sevens were sown on to the seat of his trousers, that I suggested he see Ulli Beier the next morning about the possibility of employment in the Duro Ladipo Opera Company. Soon afterwards, he attended an art workshop and demonstrated an immediate talent as a creative artist, with remarkable imagination and a superb sense of colour.

Today there are about 25 artists who have emerged as

professional artists from the Oshogbo and Ife workshops. Some of them, like Jimoh Buraimoh, live exclusively from the income derived from their art. Others like Twins-Seven have branched out—running a popular band and standing successfully last year for election as a local government councillor. Some work on their own, others in artistic co-operatives like the Oguntimilehin Art Centre in Ife where a group of Oshogbo and Ife-trained artists have taken over a disused cocoa warehouse as their communal studio.

All have been heavily influenced by Suzanne Wenger, who lives in Oshogbo, and Georgina Beier, Ulli Beier's wife. All seek inspiration from each other, while trying to develop their own distinctive style and even medium which they try to patent, rarely successfully. Thus Jimoh Buraimoh is mainly noted for the use of beads as a medium for his paintings, an idea derived from the Yoruba beaded crowns.

Adebisi uses wool and silk applique much in the style of Mexican Indian folk-art although there is no suggestion that it was from Mexico he received the idea. Fola Sorunke, an Ife rather than an Oshogbo product, specializes in "drawings from the back". All are receptive to further training and some have since attended formal art school.

Rufus Ogundele, who attended the Ife workshop, financed himself at Bradford College of Technology. Some of the artists have made a great deal of money and have built their own houses and bought their own cars. Others hawk their latest prints, paintings and beaded crowns, and some have potential patrons—Nigerian and expatriate—rather in the manner of Hausa traders selling craft work. They hold one-man and collective exhibitions both within Nigeria and abroad. Recently Yinka Adegemi and Jimoh Buraimoh exhibited at the Commonwealth Institute in London.

Many supplement their income by playing in orchestras or acting or dancing in university sponsored performing arts groups. They have a strong sense of community, often helping to sell each other's work, and the wealthier aiding the less successful. They also have their rivalries and their feuds.

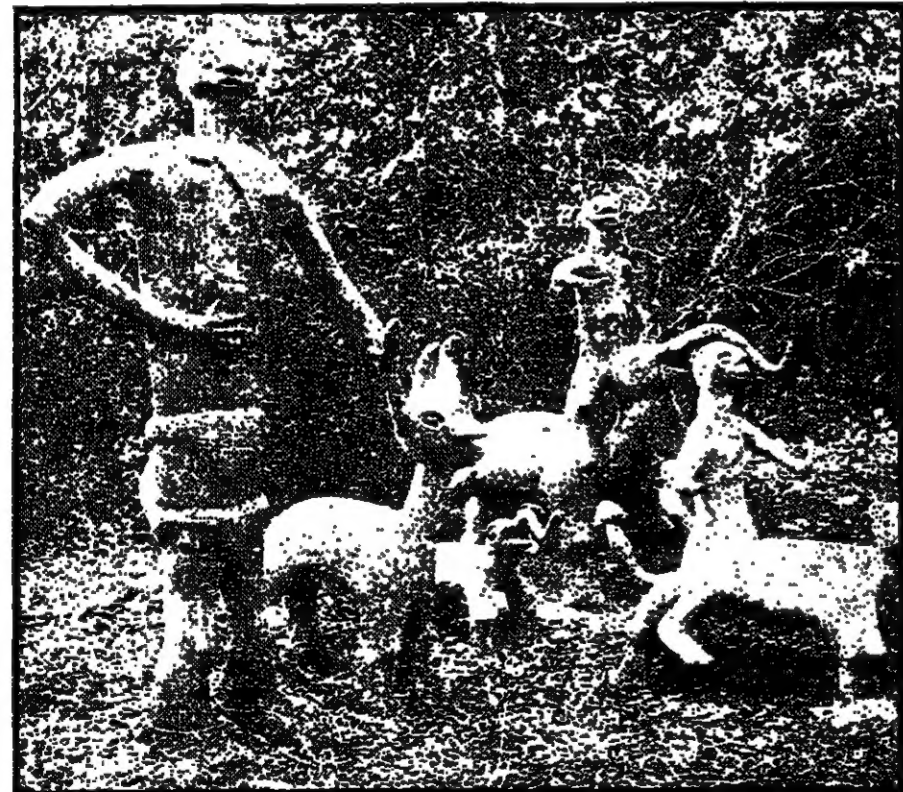
In a sense they are the first contemporary Nigerian professional artists in that they derive their principal income from the sale of their work. In this they differ from the products of the Western-style art schools who by and large rely on teaching posts or employment as commercial artists for their main source of income.

Between some of the Western-trained artists and the Oshogbo-Ife artists there is, sadly, some antipathy, and even rivalry. This is not true of all Western-trained artists, some of whom, like Bruce Onobrakpeya and Ireni Wangboje, have actively helped them. Others like Agbolola Folarin have been inspired by their work, as is best demonstrated in his superb copper panels for the University of Ife Conference Centre, which owe a clear debt to the work of Asiru, based in Oshogbo.

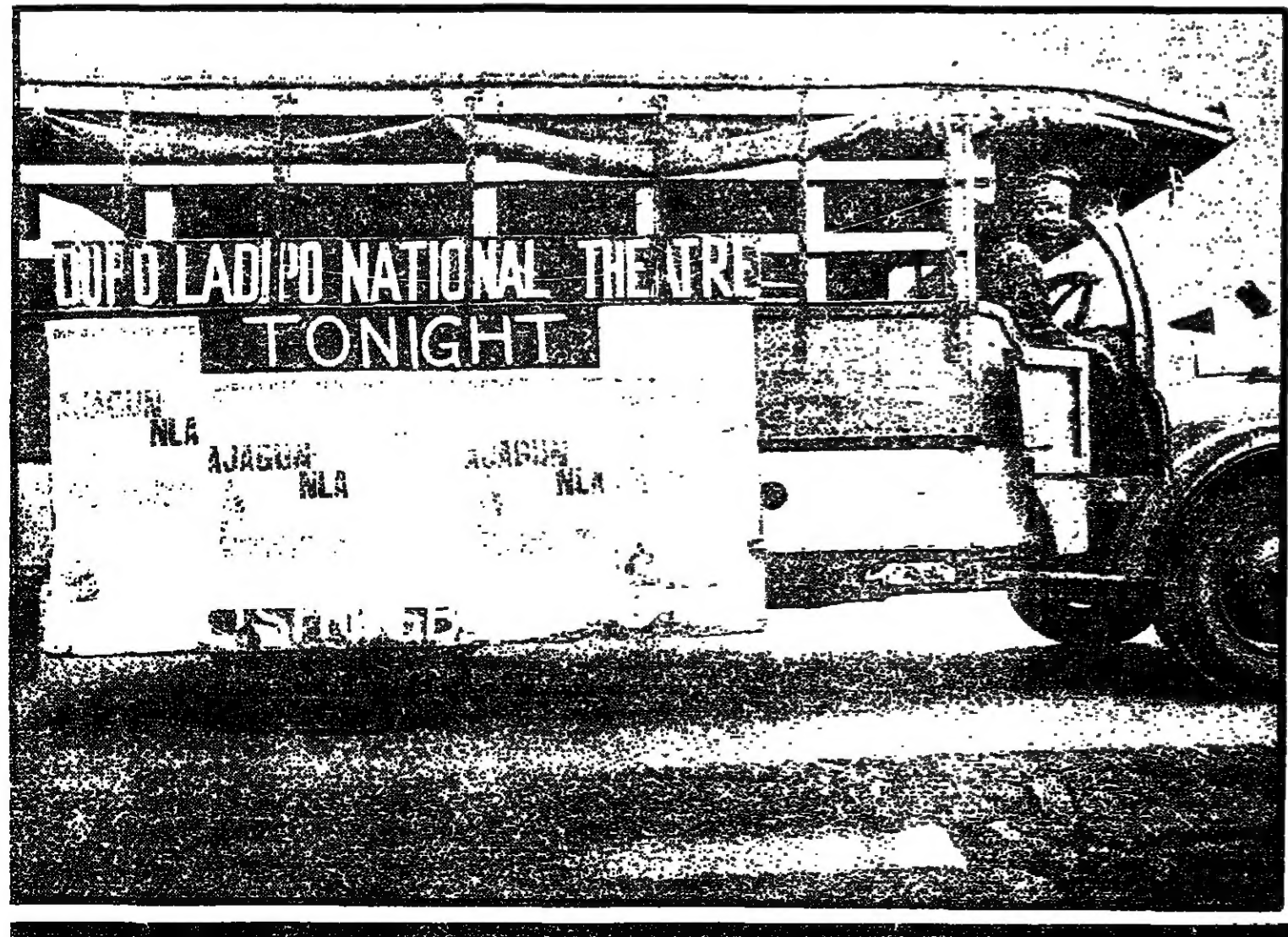
The antipathy relates perhaps on the one hand to the very success many of the Oshogbo artists have achieved without degree or diploma, and on the other to the fact that their art is exotic, emphasizing the "primitive" and mythical aspects of African culture.

Some have been perhaps repulsive if not imitative of themselves. Others, once they have found a formula that sells, seem to go no further. But now, about 15 years since the movement began, they are still a lively group producing work that to this critic's mind forms a significant phase in the development of contemporary art in Nigeria.

The author is visiting professor, University of Lagos.



Some facets of the art and culture which flourish in and around Oshogbo. Top: the sign which welcomes visitors to Twins-Seven's art gallery. Above (left): holy figures, by Lamidi Arusa, in Suzanne Wenger's house; and (right) cement sculpture by Braimah Akanji. Below: the mammy wagon of the Duro Ladipo folk theatre.



# COME FLY WITH US



It is a well accepted fact that people are happy when pleasantly surprised. And a lot of the credit for that goes to Nigeria Airways.

We have our own way of making you comfortable, happy and satisfied when you fly with us. A way that will put you in a beautiful frame of mind.

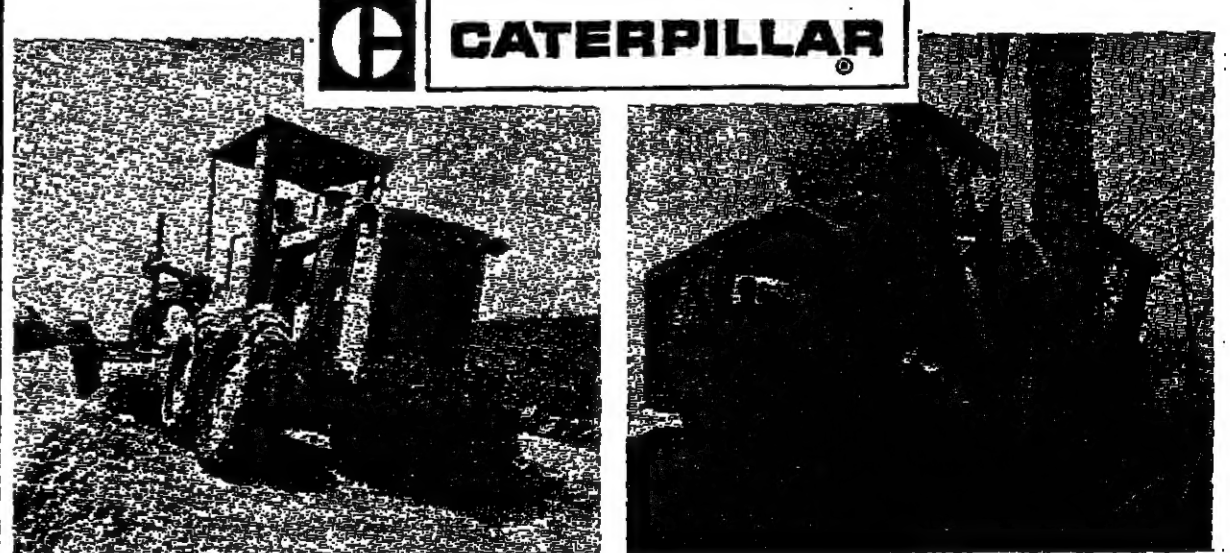
On our international flights to Rome, Amsterdam or London, you will meet our hostesses and stewards whose joy it is to serve you and by the time you arrive at your destination, you'll be making plans to fly back with us.



## NIGERIA AIRWAYS

*Skypower will take you there-in style*

## In Nigeria Tractor & Equipment give you the world's finest earthmoving equipment



...and servicing to match.

Caterpillar equipment is known and trusted throughout the world where rapid development is priority. Here in Nigeria, Tractor & Equipment offer qualified personnel who



are trained to enable you to obtain the machines best suited to your projects, backed by a service organisation that ensures you get the maximum value from your Caterpillar Investments.



**TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT**

**YOUR CATERPILLAR DEALER**

Head Office: Taylor Road, Ibadan, P.M.B. 1015, Telephone: 43310 Assembly Plant and Sales Dept: Irons Ore Road, off Eric Moore Road, Surulere, Lagos. Branches: Kaduna, Kano, Maiduguri, Warri, Port-Harcourt.

Caterpillar, Cat and [Caterpillar logo] are Trademarks of Caterpillar Tractor Co

AGADUWA  
Tractor & Equipment  
Caterpillar & Tractor Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 557,  
Agadun, Oyo

IBADAN  
Tractor & Equipment,  
Caterpillar & Tractor Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 122,  
Ibadan

IBADAN  
Tractor & Equipment,  
Caterpillar & Tractor Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 122,  
Ibadan

IBADAN  
Tractor & Equipment,  
Caterpillar & Tractor Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 122,  
Ibadan

IBADAN  
Tractor & Equipment,  
Caterpillar & Tractor Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 122,  
Ibadan

IBADAN  
Tractor & Equipment,  
Caterpillar & Tractor Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 122,  
Ibadan

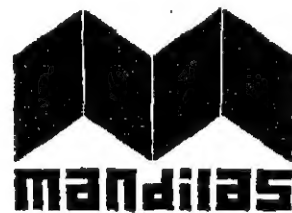
IBADAN  
Tractor & Equipment,  
Caterpillar & Tractor Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 122,  
Ibadan



## The New Nigerians of to-morrow are at Mandilas to-day



These are the specialists who have been trained to meet the ever growing demands on technical know-how in a fast developing economy. And with Sales and Service Branches throughout Nigeria Mandilas Ltd truly offers a complete service to commerce industry and the public.



96/102 Broad St P O Box 35 Mandilas Ltd  
Mandilas House Lagos Tel 52520 (10 lines)

## Berger -the paintmakers ...building your future



Nigeria's future is your future. And it's a future that looks brighter all the time. It hasn't happened overnight. It's taken hard work and dedication. But at Berger Paints we welcome challenges and we've got results. Since 1962 when we were the first to manufacture paints in Nigeria, almost every new paint development—decorative, industrial, specialised—has come from Berger Paints.

Through sound thinking, awareness of tomorrow's needs and 15 years hard working we've become what we are today, the professionals.

**Berger**  
-the paintmakers  
Part of your past.  
Building your future

### HAUSAS

## New art dramatizes local village life

by David Heathcote

In November 1972 a young, self-taught artist named Musa Yola completed several decorative murals in the Hausa village of Hunkuyi, in northern Nigeria.

One of them was on a small mosque belonging to Ahaji Abashiya, while a few yards away, on a large wall in the adjoining compound, the artist had placed portraits of two of Ahaji Abashiya's wives, two of his children, and his brother, shown equipped for hunting at night, with shotgun, lamp, and cartridge belt.

The appearance of Musa Yola's paintings was greeted in Hunkuyi, and other villages where he worked, with great enthusiasm. The pictures were a new experience, a dramatization of local life that was immensely impressive. The villages already had other wall decorations, but nothing like this.

Musa's range of subject matter was apparently unlimited, and the people whose portraits could be seen in the murals were delighted to find themselves so realistically portrayed, in what must have seemed to be a kind of permanent cinema show.

It was understandable that Musa Yola occasionally referred to himself as *mai Hoto* (the photographer). The camera has been particularly influential in bringing about changes in Hausa attitudes towards representation, and in Musa's case his methods were especially close to photographic techniques, for his subjects were taken straight from life.

In 1931 the Waziri of Kano decided at an advisory meeting that as photographs cast no shadows he had no objection to their use in a proposed local newspaper.

Since then, as a result of closer links with Europe, the flow of pictorial images before the public eye has increased greatly. First came newspaper and magazine illustrations, and pictures on the printed wrappings of goods available in the markets. Then came the cinema, and eventually television, while portrait photography became established as one of the most flourishing of new urban trades.

The new imagery did not bring about a sudden, dramatic change in the character of Hausa art, though it certainly prepared the way for innovations, such as those introduced by Musa Yola. What it did do was to encourage a widening of the range of imagery used by Hausas who worked at the traditional arts.

At about the same time that the Waziri of Kano decided on the acceptability of newspaper photographs, wall decorations working on the instructions of the Emir of Kano were elaborately decorated with moulded and painted reliefs a bedroom and living room in the old treasury, in the Mandawari quarter.

These rooms were to be used by a Kano princess, whose husband had been treasurer. The decorations included several symbols connected with the palace, such as large sundials, spears, shotguns, and ceremonial abutment ewers.

More striking, and distinctly more ambitious and up to date, was the representation of what may have been intended as a steam boat or, more likely, a locomotive. Images of this kind, including aircraft and cars, also came to be used in the ornamentation of Hausa woven cloth and hand embroidery. No one has yet attempted an experiment among the Hausa such as that of the summer schools and Mbari Club at Oshogbo, in southern Nigeria, which created a centre for the production of works of art that were easily sold to foreigners.

The tourist trade in Hausaland has to some extent encouraged the production of new kinds of leatherwork and metal ornaments, but the most important changes in the Hausa arts have come about as a result of indigenous needs.

Apart from a wall that Musa Yola painted for me in a museum room I was arranging in Zaria, and a small batch of easel paintings he made when I was unable to find him another commission, all his work was done for local Hausa people.

Local demand and the extension of local techniques have led to developments in other areas. Some of the simply-made furniture sold in Hausa markets is now decorated by means of a modified traditional method



A Hausa man wearing a cap embroidered by a young pupil with a design that includes a car and a mosque. Right: a BA fine art student working in the textile studio of Ahmadu Bello University. Top: Musa Yola with his mural on a village house. The painting contains several portraits.

used in the making of horse trappings: the use of appliquéd aluminium, in this case obtained from discarded kerosene tins.

Aluminium is now used to make the long trumpets that announce the arrival of an emir. Formerly they were made of copper. Other modern materials and methods are also used. Imported lures thread can now be found in hand-woven Hausa cloths, and imported sewing machines are an established feature of Hausa tailoring.

Yet in spite of the adaptability of some of the crafts, men, and the use of old-established techniques, one cannot be optimistic about the future of most of the Hausa crafts.

Some are in rapid decline, some are clearly dying. The amount of decorated wear, wood carvings, and pottery seems to be constantly diminishing, and it is mainly old men who are keeping some of the crafts going.

In the case of embroidery,

however, the opposite seems to be true. Embroidery still attracts many young people, for it is a pleasant way of making a little money, and the outlay on materials can be small.

Young boys can invariably be seen during the day sitting at the side of city streets, stitching away at caps. Most of these young embroiderers cater for the demand for multicoloured caps, which during the past three decades have been replacing the older turbans.

Each cap is slightly different. Apart from locally inspired designs, patterns are borrowed from Borno, in north-eastern Nigeria, and farther afield, from Mecca and North Africa.

To encourage the sale of their caps embroiderers give them topical names, such as those of prominent personalities or important events. One design, which became popular when Nigeria changed over from driving on the left to driving

on the right, was called "Keep to the right", and two more recent patterns, both of them abstract ones, have been named "Murtala's tomb", which is a reference to the late head of state, and "Obasanjo's administration", which is a reference to the present head.

Cap decorations include a great variety of motifs from cars and mosques, to plants, animals, and abstract symbols.

A notable contribution to the recent development of Hausa art has been made by the women. The role of women in the traditional Hausa arts seems always to have been a secondary one, though women have helped by weaving and potting and making baskets.

Some women still weave a little on their own type of loom, and women in Argungu make pottery dolls that appear to have no counterparts in the work of the men.

Women and girls now

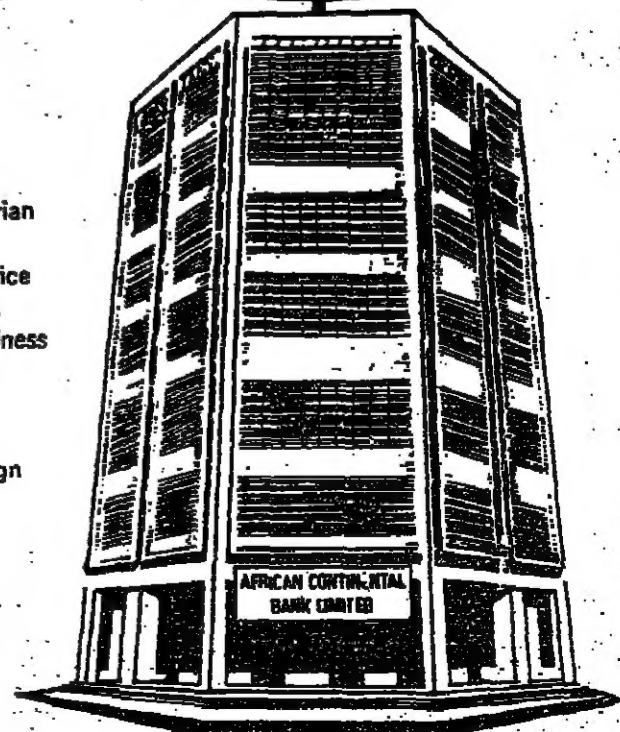
make a lot of cap embroidery, and they have also taken to decorating pillow cases and bed covers with ornamental sewing that is often lively in design and original in its subject matter.

If the traditional Hausa crafts continue to decline there is still the question of what present-day Hausa students may eventually achieve. There are now many of them studying in the degree and diploma courses of the fine art department of Ahmadu Bello University, where they learn techniques such as silk-screen printing, portrait painting, and the making of high-fired ceramics.

Perhaps it will not be long before some of these students, drawn from the most populous group of people in Nigeria, become artists with international reputations.

The author is senior lecturer in art history, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

## FOREIGN BUSINESS ?



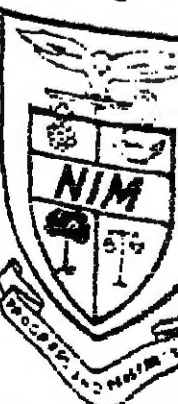
We have the right people in the right place at the right time. Why not meet one of them? Their intimate knowledge of Nigerian business conditions equips them with a reservoir of up-to-date advice from which you can always draw. Our duty is to look after your business. With correspondents throughout the world and business information at our fingertips, we can solve your local and foreign business problems expeditiously.



**AFRICAN CONTINENTAL BANK LTD.**

Head Office: 148, Broad Street, Lagos Nigeria. Telephone: 26365-7  
Cables: Populithed, Lagos. Telex: 21282  
London Branch: 80, Cheapside, London, EC2V 9EQ  
Telephone: 01-248 5680 & 5688-9. Telex: 884335

Nigerian Institute of Management



INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS FOR POSITIONS OF MANAGERIAL CONSULTANCY VICE PRESIDENT ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT THE SERVICE INSTITUTE SHOULD W Director-General Nigerian Institute of Management, Lagos, Nigeria.

هكذا من الاصل



## DRAMA FOR FARMERS

# Play's the thing but demand for fertilizer comes first

by Michael Etherton

Before the 1977 rains began, in the fear of April, two small buses and an open lorry lurched down dry weather tracks to four remote Hausa villages in the north of Nigeria. They carried 30 drama students from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, their tutors, a wooden stage and sets, grass mats and chairs.

The plays which these students were to perform for peasant farmers in these villages were the outcome of a joint drama and agriculture project called *Wasani Manoma*—literally, "plays for farmers". It was a unique experiment in Nigeria in using the skills of drama students, in the middle of their degree and as an integral part of it, for communicating to rural communities specific development objectives.

Three experiments are being tried elsewhere in Africa. They are based on the realization that the real media for disseminating scientific information helpful to rural African communities are the so-called folk-media: masquerades, drumming and dancing, story-telling and the songs of the wandering praise-singers: in other words, the live performance. It is the live performance which makes the community development message so immediate and pertinent, and which emphasizes the basic goals of participation and self-reliance.

The students reached the first of the two villages they were going to that day by

10 am, with the temperature already in the nineties. The farmers were expecting them. The headman had arranged for a space to be cleared under a large mango tree, under which the students decided to put their audience after arranging the chairs and mats. Then they erected their stage in the middle of the field facing the tree and backed by the mud walls and domes of one of the farmer's compounds.

The audience converged from all over the village; the headman arrived with his councillors, and the farmers, young and old, crowded round them sitting on a chair or lying on the mats. On one horn of the semi-circle was a crowd of children, and on the other a group of women, which was unique to that village since most women in this Muslim area are kept in purdah and not allowed to see the plays. A faint breeze billowed the cotton curtains which were erected in front of the stage. The buses and the lorry concealed the backstage area where the students changed into their costumes.

If the staging was outlandish, what was enacted when the curtains were drawn back was not. For these plays, all in Hausa, were about their lives: as farmers, traders, wives, headman, town-crier. One play was about the rhetoric of government and agricultural development; another was about fertilizer-swindling by traders and corrupt officials. A third play showed selfish peasant

farmers manipulating a weak headman against their fellow farmers; and the final play showed the need for farmers to cooperate and organize themselves more effectively against corruption. The plays lasted for just under two hours.

At the end of the performance the farmers and other villagers were invited to join in discussions with the students and the rural sociologists who were involved in the project. In the general discussion about the non-availability of fertilizer there was a recurrent complaint about the lack of village organization. One farmer said: "We have not come together to discuss our problems like this for many years." But the women privately told some of the female students that the men in the village would never cooperate with each other.

The plays had been developed by first, the students visiting the villages and having informal discussions with the farmers about their problems. The students explained that they were not bringing fertilizer but plays about fertilizer. The farmers replied that they would prefer the fertilizer; but if the plays were the only thing on offer then at least let them be about the farmers not getting the fertilizer which they were promised. The students perceived a sharp discrepancy between the rhetoric of agricultural development and actual practice; and a latent antagonism between farmers and rural officials.

Back on campus the students improvised plays around the themes and characters which had been described to them, bringing the issues into focus through briefing by agriculturists and their own research. The plays were refined in front of a specialized audience of

extension workers so that each play made a precise and detailed statement. For instance the first play, which showed university students arriving in a village to help the farmers under the aegis of the Government's Operation Feed the Nation scheme, avoided making the students bad and the farmers good or vice versa. Instead, one farmer was in favour of learning new methods of farming while another was conservative; and the students ranged from the socialist idealists to the urban bourgeois. The point at issue was that no one could make a scheme work which had not been fully thought out and which lacked the appropriate services.

The final play, too, avoided a glib argument in favour of cooperatives. The word itself is suspect in rural Hausaland; the play showed that the extent of cooperation against exploiting local traders is directly dependent on the degree of self-sufficiency which the farmers are prepared to make, as well as on the presence of an organizer who can read, write and think ahead. Like this play, the other two argued for self-reliance which was not just pragmatic but which sprang from clearly articulated social responsibilities. The validity of these statements was proved in the detail of the discussions after each performance.

While the Hausa-speaking students were engaged in discussion with the villagers, the non-Hausa speakers discussed the stage and loaded it back on to the lorry. An hour later the motorized caravan squeezed out of the village between the narrow mud walls, with the children running behind, and farmers riding ahead, weaving their bikes at speed along the tracks to announce the players' arrival in the

next village. The performance there was arranged for the late afternoon between the 4 pm call to prayer and the prayers at sunset.

The performance of these plays in the morning and the evening reflected both the pre-planting season and the pattern of the Muslim day. The plays also reflected a Muslim sensibility in their presentation. At the request of one village headman all drumming and dancing was excluded (although these elements would have been obligatory for non-Muslim communities).

There were five performances in three days: one before the district commissioner, the Dagachin, in the square outside his palace; and the other four in the four chosen villages. The Dagachin's approval was crucial and the stage, with its sets and curtains—all of which had a clear function—was less of a cultural imposition than performances from other regions might have been.

Unfortunately, the follow-up on the project was inadequate. The farmers wanted detailed help in getting themselves organized and the students were not trained to do this. They also wanted more performances on a wider range of issues which would bring the community together at regular intervals and help to coordinate the work of the development agencies.

These are aspects which must be carefully considered in next year's project. However, the impact of the plays in social terms was considerable and shows clearly what a powerful agent for change theatre can be in a developing society.

The author is senior lecturer and head of drama at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.



## BORNO STATE OF NIGERIA



Borno is the largest of all the nineteen states in the Federation covering an area of some 116,589 square kilometres. It has an estimated population of 5,670,000. The state shares border with the neighbouring Republics of Niger to the North, Chad to the North-East and the Cameroon to the East.

It occupies the greater part of the huge Chad Basin located in the North-Eastern corner of Nigeria. The capital, Maiduguri lies roughly on latitude 11°N and longitude 13.5°E. It has a population of over 200,000. Maiduguri has a good network of roads covering the town and the railways and airways systems link her with other towns within and outside the state.

It has many infrastructural facilities which include an International Hotel—the Lake Chad, the Kyari Park, the University of Maiduguri, General Hospital and Nursing Home and several post-primary institutions.

The most important geographical feature of Borno is Lake Chad's shoreline which lies within Nigeria were virtually isolated from the rest of the country because of poor communications. Roads were little more than aged cattle trails and the nearest railway was at Kuru some 640 kilometres away. This isolation meant slow and cumbersome transportation of fish and fish products from the lake to other parts of Nigeria with inevitable inflation because there were no proper storage facilities enroute.

But two events in recent years have made the lake's fish harvest a significant factor in helping to balance Nigeria's diet. First was the extension of the road between Maiduguri and Lake Chad. The second phase of this road, the Kala-Malam-Factor-Baga road, is under survey and design. Construction costs will be about N15.5m.

Lake Chad varies in size during the year between 5,400 kilometres and 16,000 kilometres (about a quarter of the lake's surface lies in Nigeria) and though it recedes in area because of the severe drought which hit the state in the 1972-74 period, it is now gradually coming back to its original size.

Highest water level of about 4.6 metres is reached in December each year in the southern part of the lake. No large rivers flow into Chad from the Nigeria side. Almost all of the inflow comes from the Chari-Logone river basin in the Cameroonian rivers and Yedseran on the Nigerian side flow towards the lake but become lost in a trough before they reach it.

### PRESENT CATCH

The annual amount of fish caught on the Nigerian part of the lake at present is between 10,000 and 15,000 tons but the possibilities of improving the catch are good following the establishment of various research units by the state government. It is reckoned that about 5,000 Nigerians are employed in the fishing industry at the lake.

In 1964, the four countries sharing the lake, established the Lake Chad Basin Commission in order to step up the development of the basin in an integrated manner. In 1965 the commission asked Food and Agricultural Organisation and UNESCO to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study of the land and water resources of the basin for development purposes.

The study which took five years to complete showed that there is more than one million acres of rich land which can be irrigated with water pumped from the lake on the Nigerian side based on this 200,000 acres have been drawn up and included in the current Third National Development Plan.

The Federal Government has since established the Chad Basin Development

Authority by Decree to implement the project.

The first phase of 200,000 acres will be completed by 1980 when the project is expected to produce 150,000 metric tons of cotton per annum. The area under irrigation will be doubled to 400,000 acres in the 4th Development plan period from 1980 to 85 and the crop production will similarly be doubled by 300,000 tons of rice, 200,000 tons of wheat and 50,000 tons of cotton.

### CLIMATE

The climate is hot and dry for the greater part of the year in the Northern part of the state. To the South, that is Akira, Bili, and Fika areas, the climate is a bit mild. In Maiduguri, the hottest months are March and April with temperature ranging between 39-40° (under the shade).

The period of wet season varies from place to place because of the influence of various climate factors such as the direction of the rain bearing winds and topography. The length of the wet season in Maiduguri, Gubio, Nnamu and other places north of the state is 120 days. Elsewhere, in the state that is further south the days extend to 140.

Rainfall season starts from June in most dry areas of the state but as early as April in upland places like Bili, Gwoza, and Uba.

### VEGETATION

There are two major vegetational zones in the state:—

1. THE SAHEL: This is a little belt stretching from latitude 12°N of the Equator and covering most of Lake Chad and extending eastwards to longitude 10°E of the Greenwich meridian. The vast stretches of plains consist of Fergis soil on which certain species of grass grow with the landscape mainly broken by occasional trees. Here, most of the wheat lands of the Borno State are situated, especially in Yobe, and South Chad Irrigation Schemes at Gamboru-Ngala.

2. THE SUDAN ZONE: This zone consists of scrubby vegetation interspersed with tall trees. Borno has a variety of ethnic groups. The official language is English but Kanuri, Bolewa, Babur, Bade are widely spoken vernaculars. Other languages include Marghi, Shuwa, Ngim, Wala, Gaduf, Marakam, Wala, Kere-Kere and Fulani. Hausa is widely spoken throughout the state as a lingua franca.

### HISTORY

The ancient kingdom of Borno has played an important part in the history of Africa since the middle ages and it was at one time a powerful kingdom of Kanemi referred to by the famous Arab Writer and Philosopher El-Bekri as stretching eastwards to Azhar University, Cairo, since 15th century. During the time of Mai Idris Aloma (1570-1602) the kingdom of Borno enjoyed an unknown period of prosperity. He was the most powerful ruler in West Central Africa of his day.

After a period of decline, the kingdom of Borno was restored and revitalised at the beginning of the 19th century by a new line of rulers founded by Shehu El Azim El-Kanemi, a scholar and statesman.

He founded the town of Kuka (Kukawa) less than 26 kilometres to Lake Chad in 1814. It was there that he received Deulman and Clapperton, the two British explorers of 1822 and 1824.

The principle tribe of Borno, the Kanuri is considered to be a mixture of Arab, Hamatic and Negro tribes established in the area for many centuries and they can still be found east of the Chad Republic, an area which covers the greater part of the former Kanem Empire.

The Kanuri claim descent from Saif

Ibn Dhi Yazan, himself an Arab. As early as 145 A.D. a long line of the Sultans and Mais had ruled before the founding of Birnin Ngargamu, the then capital of Borno Empire.

The early Mais of Borno brought Islam to the people of Chad and Sudan Basin. The Borno Muslim era is known to have begun with Ummu Hani who reigned around 1085 A.D. A village for Borno students had existed in Cairo since the 15th century.

Equally important is the history of the five independent emirates of Bode, Bili, Gwoza and Fika which form part of Borno State. The arrival of Bades to the Western part of Borno was believed to be around 1300 A.D. and from then on the consolidated their position under the leadership of successive strong leaders, prominent among whom was Lawan Babuje, son of Digur Alewira with his headquarters at Gorgoran.

The Bili emirate is mostly inhabited by Babur-Bura who though without early written records had fairly rich oral tradition. Their great leader, Yamar Wala was born in Birnin Ngargamu. He first reached Pabir at Libir, a place between Mandargau and Chelwale.

The Fika emirate is heterogeneous in population and Bolewas who have written history while the others recall their past orally. The Bolewas are said to have left Yemen in South Arabia about 600 years ago led by their war lord, Maigadi. They were probably Kanemi immigrants and when they left Yemen they moved together with some thirty five other people including the Kanuri and the Jakus.

With the imposition of European colonial rule, the sultanate of Borno and the Emirates of Bode, Bili and Fika were grouped in Borno province in the then British Protectorate of Northern Nigeria.

Until the 1914 war, the present Dikwa Emirate and Gwoza Local Authority area were in German Cameroons. Subsequently, Dikwa and Gwoza were incorporated in Borno province as united territories from the defunct League of Nations and its successor United Nations Organisation.

When both Nigeria and Cameroon became independent in 1960, the United Nations took over direct responsibility for the administration of Northern and Southern Cameroons Trust Territories and organised a plebiscite in 1961, in which the people of the two territories were asked to vote either to join Nigeria or the Cameroonian Republic. The North voted to join Nigeria and the South joined Cameroonian Republic.

### ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP

The State is governed by an executive council, members of which are appointed by the Military Governor who is himself the Chairman. There is also a council of Chiefs with the Shehu of Borno as Chairman.

With the recent implementation of the Local Government reforms, Borno State has been divided into seventeen local government areas and one Maiduguri-Yerwa Metropolitan local government. The seventeen local governments are Bode with a population of 134,250, Fika (314,847), Bili (293,070), Akiska/Uba (133,570), Bala (214,827), Bama (99,012), Galdam (304,305), Kanembu (449,556), Nguru (304,245), Monguno (258,688), Kondura (276,108), Kaga (245,160), Fune (194,261), Damaturu (277,678), Damboa (161,153) and Gubio (130,321). There are six Emirate councils. They are Borno, Bode, Dikwa, Bili Fika and Gwoza. These councils are advisory in nature.

The state's wealth comes from fisheries, cattle and agriculture, producing such crops as groundnuts, cotton, gum-arabic, millet, rice and wheat. Gum Arabic is also being tapped in the Northern part of the state.



Students perform their plays before the Dagachin (District Commissioner) of Soba, Kaduna state.

## Nigerian Institute of Management

INTERESTED INSTITUTIONS OR INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF MANAGEMENT TRAINING/CONSULTANCY WHO WISH TO ASSOCIATE WITH OR UTILISE THE SERVICES OF THE INSTITUTE SHOULD WRITE TO:

The Director-General,  
Nigerian Institute of Management,  
P.O. Box 2557,  
Lagos, Nigeria.

## MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES

THE PREMIER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE IN NIGERIA

The Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) is the leading organisation and pioneer of Executive Development programmes in Nigeria. It is the first indigenous organisation to train and use Nigerians in Management/Consultancy assignments throughout the country. NIM is the only management organisation in Black Africa that is a constituent member of the World Council of Management (CIOS). In both lecturing and consultancy assignments, NIM works where necessary with foreign Lecturers/Consultants from reputable and leading Institutions and Firms of Consultants, in North America and Europe. The Institute seeks to continue and maintain the existing co-operation with appropriate international organisations as well as to establish new associations which will enable it to cope effectively with the growing demands brought about by the buoyancy of the Nigerian Economy.

The Institute also provides an Executive Selection Service.

At present the Institute serves 240 Collective Subscriber Companies and 6,950 individual professional members. The growing rate of membership is very substantial. The Institute operates throughout the 19 States of the Federation and publishes a monthly journal—*Management in Nigeria*—which enjoys a wide circulation both in Nigeria and abroad.

# NIGERIA GROWS

## ...in construction

Let us show you. No one can tell you that Nigeria is making rapid progress in a short and healthy time. Thousands of new buildings are being built, old ones are being replaced and new roads are being built. The country is growing and the people are prospering. This is the story of the New Nigeria Bank.

### NEW NIGERIA BANK

the bank of new ideas that caters for now and the future

Head Office: Ring Road, F.M.C. 11th Floor, Lagos. Tel. 5512/450

Branch Office: Abuja, Akoka, Benin City, Calabar, Ibadan, Kano, Lagos, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria.

Overseas: London, EC4A 2AA. The New Nigeria Bank Ltd. Tel. 01-245 3708

Telex: 288048



## IBOS

## Market place artists portray world of surrealist fantasy

by Ulli Beier

Onitsha market is said to be the largest in Africa, and even before the civil war it was alleged to have a daily turnover of £2m. There is very little that cannot be bought on Onitsha market. The traders there are not merely retailers. Some are importers who then retail their goods to the whole of Nigeria and even as far as Ghana.

The new urban culture of Onitsha, Enugu, Aba, Owerri and Umuahia represents a clean break with tradition. People went to the city partly to escape from the

austerity and severity of traditional village life. The city offered a new freedom, an escape (or at least a partial escape) from family obligations. It offered what became to be known as Highlife: a hedonistic indulgence in music, drink, romantic love and ostentatious spending. It was a pleasure-loving, but also a romantic life. It was propelled by the general sense of euphoria that sprang from the knowledge that independence was round the corner.

This new urban lust for life was reflected in two popular art forms: the pamphlets that have become

known as Onitsha market literature and the pop paintings that were produced by professional sign-writers. Popular Ibo literature is mostly written in English and is produced chiefly by primary school leavers or teachers or even schoolboys. Primers, whose workshops are little bigger than 15ft square, double up as publishers. They run into initial editions of one or two thousand, but there are best sellers that have been kept in print for two decades.

The titles of the books are suggestive of their contents: *Saturday Night Disappointment*, *Rosemary and the Taxi Driver*, *Romance in a*

*Nutshell*, *Disaster in the Realm of Love*, *Public Opinion on Lovers*. Some of them have elaborate subtitles: *Our Modern Ladies Characters towards boys*; (*The most exciting novel with love letters, drama, telegrams, and comedy*); *Miss Beauty to the teacher asking him to marry her*; Or: *Husband and Wife who hate themselves*; (*It was a forced marriage by Chief Monger*); as a result of this everyday so so quarrel, so so talk, so so fight, no peace.

The writer's knowledge of English is limited, because few of them had more than a primary education. But such a limitation would not stop a young Ibo from writing

ing a book nor would it impede him from developing a gutsy inventiveness with the language. Sometimes the lightest innovations are the result of a misunderstanding. For example: "head over heels in love" means of love; "you are the apple of my heart" he is the sort of boy who would sell his mother for a dirty mess of porridge.

If the grammar is rather odd at times, the language is always vigorous and striking: "he could scarcely vomit a word"; "she hurried him into her knees"; "they swilled around extending the waistband of their pants"; "she walked away with an

additional pound of flesh". I can best convey the feeling of these novels by quoting a short love scene from my favourite, *Rosemary and the Taxi Driver*: "They rocked each other, hugging themselves together, feeling the transfer of flirtation and fervourism, through the sending over of the warmth which God had wasted time in giving over to any living being, excepting the reptiles. Their intentions were deep, mostly that of Okoro. His sexual instinct was in its worst instant, started were the leaves around, mourning under the roary wind. The scaring desert wind over

with tremor. They like doing the lot, the life they played was as the first day of a virgin's honeymoon. How beautiful it is to toss oneself with one's wife, how lovely it was for Rosemary to feel very shy and sophisticated. Her youthful fidelity was exhausted and she was delivered into a romantic blast. It was a nice day for men to marry. If it hadn't been that there was no responsible adult, it could have been a honeymoon."

However, not all the Onitsha novelists see the city life as one big "romantic blast": there are other authors, who give themselves names like *Master of Life*, *Strong Man of the Pen* or *Money Hard*, who sound a note of warning; they tell us to be wise and beware of women, because they want to draw the money out of our pockets. Their books have titles like: *Money Hard to Get but Easy to Spend*; *Why Harlots Hate Married Men*; and *Love Bachelors*; *Drunkards Believe Bar as Heaven*; *Money Hard but Some Women Don't Know*.

However, most of these books are Highlife, and it is from this atmosphere, which is described in the Onitsha pamphlets, that Ibo also developed their new popular art form.

The practitioners are again primary school leavers who have drifted into the city, found themselves unemployed and then—perhaps because they had been good at "art" in primary school—set up shop as sign-writers. A sign-writer does not need much money to set up business. Before the Civil War he could probably rent a tiny room in one of the busy shopping streets for as little as 50 or 60 a month. If he did not have that money, he might build himself a shack from old beer boxes or crates in front of the line of shops. A sheet of hardboard, a few brushes and some tin of enamel were all the equipment he needed to start.

The principal clients of the sign-writer were the barber, the tailor, the watchmaker, the herbalist, the truck owner and the bar owner.

A barber's sign usually consisted of a large panel divided into equal squares each showing the portrait of a young man sporting a popular haircut. Hairstyles change quickly in Nigeria, thus giving the signwriter plenty of work. New styles were often named after prominent figures: the Kennedy cut or the Lumumba cut, for example. It is possible to cut African hair into shapes like a hedge and thus were crowned the popular styles of Monkey, Cap, On Deck, Cockroach, Babyface or Drawback. A dandy could have his hair cut into a thin point in the front which was known as the Baldy Cut.

Herbalists and licensed practitioners of "native medicine" would advertise their skills in curing fevers, broken bones, gonorrhoea and "woman trouble". These signboards were often gruesome realistic, while the signs for railors and the murals of dancing couples and beer drinkers on the walls of nightclubs and bars gave the sign-writer the opportunity to indulge in his most romantic fantasies.

When not working on a commission the signwriter would indulge in "art for art's sake" painting what interested him or what occupied his imagination at the time. Such pictures included prominent political leaders such as Dr. Asikwe and the Sardauna of Sokoto in the early 1960s, General Gowon in the early 1970s and General Olusegun Obasanjo at present.

International figures such as Churchill, Kennedy and Lumumba were also popular. Other subjects were taken from the newspaper: a child born with the head of an old man, the murder of the popular singer Njemanza, or some topical murder trial. Such pictures, though not commissioned, were bought occasionally by teachers or small traders to decorate their parlours.

Some of the paintings depict whole stories like strip cartoons with little bits of writing inserted to explain the action. One delightful example of this genre describes the story of Chukwuma and Rose. Rose became Rose: "My Rose, never mind, money day; I am PND". To which Rose



Not passport photographs but a sign displaying styles outside a barber's shop in Onitsha.

replies: "I like you my friend, I will never forget you." However, this bliss does not last, because a little farther to the right Chukwuma is shown despondent and by himself saying: "This Rose loves me all my life, what shall I do—I shall suicide myself!"

This threat is indeed carried out, for on the top right of the picture we see Chukwuma hanging from a branch. He has taken off his shoes and placed them neatly at the foot of the tree, and his tie is hung to be digested. And there was clearly also a fear that the Federal Government would frown on any such protestations of love and faithfulness. To give the whole story cosmic proportions we find the archangel Michael wrestling with the Devil in the clouds. He has his foot firmly placed on the Devil's head, his sword raised and he says: "I will kill you, for you have spoilt the world."

There are also landscape paintings; always romantic, some with canoes gliding through the lagoons, some with Regency houses looking down on a pond with swans. There are pictures of beautiful women, but never in the nude; always rather lush, but respectable.

Self-portraits are also very common. On one, the artist portrays himself in a stick suit and wrote the words on top: "The Manager in Charge—I salute". In another he indulges in an extravagant fantasy, he portrays himself receiving a prize consisting of a wad of pound notes from the Sardauna of Sokoto.

The sign-writer derived his inspiration from traditional Ibo art. In fact he deliberately dissociated himself from it. He no longer understands the transpositions and abstractions of say, an Ibo Mmo mask. He prides himself on his ability to produce a likeness and believes his pictures to be quite realistic.

The real influences on his pictures were cinema posters and European commercial advertising. These heck jobs of European advertising art did not seem cheap or vulgar to him. They became the symbols of the brightness and glamour of the city. Looking at them through the glasses of his own superstitions, he opened completely new visions for him. They allowed him to feel modern and with it and they suited his vision of 'Highlife' and the carefree city life.

The dreams of the sign-writer were rudely shattered during the civil war. The fabulous market of Onitsha, the largest market in Africa—and some say in the world—was shelled into rubble by federal troops. Bombs dropped on all major Ibo cities, the sign-writers were recruited into the Biafran army. Some of them died in battle. Many of them lost their homes, many saw their children die of malnutrition. Those who survived could not give expression to the horrendous experience of the war. It was too stunning to be digested, and there was clearly also a fear that the Federal Government would frown on any such art.

The one remarkable exception is that strange and unique artist who calls himself Middle Art. He has always been the most individual artist in this vigorous Ibo sub-culture.

After the war I invited him to the University of Ife to take six months off from his bread and butter job and paint anything he liked. During this time he produced an entirely different set of directions simultaneously. On the one hand he produced moving scenes from the war, taken straight out of his personal experience. On the other he indulged in curious religious fantasies in which he tried to escape from the painful experience.

Typical of his religious escapism is the painting "Angels of the moon". A broad inscription arches across the moon saying: "Try to be holy, my angels, we are the angels of the moon. We are always happy—your good actions will bring you here to enjoy with us."

Perhaps the finest of his war paintings is the one depicting a bomb attack on the village. It shows three people crushed under the collapsing walls of a house. A man carries a baby to safety. Another child is left bewildered and frightened. The war-like aircraft floating in the sky, the distorted perspective of the scene from the ruins, the huge flower intruding from the scene from the right, give the painting a feeling of more powerful than a more realistic presentation might be.

Middle Art held an exhibition in Lagos of his war paintings in the summer of 1976. In spite of the success of this exhibition he has long been back in Onitsha, doing his work in the barbers and tailors' nightclubs. He has no intention to join the world of the more self-conscious, intellectual artists that Nigeria has also produced. His life is his little shop in Onitsha where he can have his place firmly rooted in the community and at the same time indulge in his romantic fantasies.

The author was on the staff of the University of Ife and Director of the Institute of African Studies, Ife. He is now at the University of the Institute of African Studies, Ife. He is now at the University of the Institute of African Studies, Ife.

## When You Think Of Business In Nigeria Think Of HENRY STEPHENS GROUP OF COMPANIES

90, AWOLowo ROAD, SOUTH WEST IKOYI, P.O. BOX 2480, LAGOS, NIGERIA  
PHONE: 55090, 55091, TELEX: 21286.

Our name is synonymous with Efficiency,  
High Standards and Reliability

OUR MAIN SERVICES TO YOU INCLUDE:

### Shipping

HENRY STEPHENS  
SHIPPING COMPANY LTD.

13/15, SAPELE ROAD,  
P.O. BOX 1013, APAPA, LAGOS, NIGERIA  
TEL: 45698, 45678, 40103,  
TELEX: 21566.

### Packaging, Removals, Storage, Airfreight, Clearing & Forwarding

NIGERIAN MARITIME  
SERVICES LIMITED

13/15, SAPELE ROAD,  
P.O. BOX 331, APAPA, LAGOS, NIGERIA.  
TEL: 40103, 45691, 45675.

### Import & Export

HENRY STEPHENS  
& SONS LIMITED

90, AWOLowo ROAD, S.W. IKOYI,  
P.O. BOX 2480, LAGOS.  
TEL: 55090, 55091  
TELEX: 21286

### Construction Machinery & Mechanical Equipment

HENRY STEPHENS  
ENGINEERING CO. LTD.

2, ILUPEJU BYE PASS  
P.M.B. 1386,  
IKEJA, LAGOS, NIGERIA.  
TEL: 31055, TELEX: 24566 HESHIP APAPA,  
CABLES: HENSENCO

### Travel & Car Hire

N. M. S. TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.,

170, BROAD STREET,  
P.O. BOX 4243, LAGOS.  
TELEPHONE: 23375, 26551.  
CABLES: MARITOUS



### Supply of Building Materials

HENRY STEPHENS  
BUILDING MATERIALS  
COMPANY LIMITED

20, CREEK ROAD,  
P.O. BOX 331, APAPA, LAGOS, NIGERIA  
TEL: 45691  
TELEX: 21566 HENSHIP  
CABLES: HENSHUILD APAPA.

### Road Transport and Haulage

HENRY STEPHENS TRANSPORT  
COMPANY LTD.

2, Ilupeju Bypass  
P.M.B. 1589, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.  
Telex: 21286 Hensstep, Lagos  
Cables HENTRANSCO

### Estate & Property Development

ADRIATIC CO. (NIG) LTD.

40, BALOGUN STREET,  
P.O. BOX 2480, LAGOS  
TEL: 55092, TELEX: 21286.

### Electrical Equipment and Machinery

GILCO (NIGERIA) LTD

292, APAPA ROAD,  
P.O. BOX 146, APAPA, LAGOS  
NIGERIA. TEL: 46112-4  
TELEX: 21566.

### Shipping Agency

NIGMARSHIP  
AGENCIES LIMITED

13/15, SAPELE ROAD,  
P.M.B. 1027, APAPA, LAGOS, NIGERIA.  
TEL: 45698, 40103,  
TELEX: 21566.

هذا ان الاصل